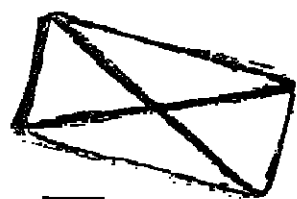


Ibn Ali sacks party's old guard

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali purged the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD) leadership on Tuesday, sacking from the political bureau all but three who served under deposed head of state Habib Bourguiba. The three who remain are Prime Minister Hedi Jazouli, the party's secretary-general, Hamed Karoui, its director, and Defence Minister Shabeddine Baly. PSD treasurer, the official news agency TAP said. Those fired from the new political bureau — which is cut from 20 to 12 members — include Mr. Bourguiba's son, former foreign Minister Habib Bourguiba Junior. Three ex-cabinet ministers lost to his 84-year-old father, who was deposed on Nov. 7 after being declared senile, were sacked from the bureau nearly three weeks ago. They have been under house arrest since the takeover. Newcomers to the political bureau include Interior Minister Habib Ammar and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. TAP said Mr. Ibn Ali remains PSD president, despite calls from opposition parties for the head of state to relinquish any party post.



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rown Prince receives cable of thanks from Ozal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a cable from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in reply to a congratulatory message the Crown Prince sent him on the occasion of his reelection premier for a second term. In cable, Mr. Ozal thanked His Highness for his kind message of congratulations and said expressing his conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation on all levels between Jordan and Turkey would continue to grow and flourish. The Turkish premier also wished Prince Hassan continued good health, happiness and prosperity and well-being for the people of Jordan.

yez thanks Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a reply cable from Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, thanking him for a congratulatory message over the successful operation he underwent in the U.S. Fayez also wished the Crown Prince continued good health and happiness.

ist's appeal ended down

ISCOW (R) — An appeal for pardon by Mathias Rust, the German pilot who landed in the Kremlin last May, has been turned down, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gromyko said on Tuesday. "His request was reviewed. The answer was negative," Gromyko told a news conference. Rust, 19, had appealed for pardon to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body, after being sentenced in November to four years in a labor camp for hooliganism and landing flight and border laws.

S. air crash 'was part of murder plot'

N LUIS OBISPO, California — A disgruntled employee of a murder-suicide mission may have caused the crash of a Pacific Northwest Airlines (PNA) plane that killed 43 people, ABC News said on Tuesday. Reporter Tom Ivers said authorities had found evidence that a disgruntled employee of U.S. Air, who said he was riding the aircraft with a gun, had a supervisor who was yelling on the plane on Sunday.

ghan's father is in W. Bank

CUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Bishara Sirhan, the father of an assassin who shot and killed U.S. presidential hopeful Robert Kennedy, died last week in his home village of Taibe on occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said on Tuesday. Sirhan, who was in his 50s, emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s. His wife and their children later joined him in the U.S. but after he was let them to return to West Bank. He was in the West Bank in 1968 when his son shot and killed Robert Kennedy, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a California hotel.

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Superpowers sign INF treaty

Gorbachev and Reagan launch their third summit with expressions of high hopes for better East-West relations and end to arms race

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday signed a treaty abolishing medium-range missiles on the first day of a summit aimed at achieving even more sweeping arms cuts.

The intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed at 2:02 p.m. (1902 GMT) would destroy in three years some 2,800 missiles with 3,800 warheads, mainly based in Europe.

The president and the Kremlin leader entered the East Room of the White House for the ceremony with a band playing "Hail to the Chief," the anthem of U.S. presidents, and after brief speeches they signed their names to the treaty in a ceremony attended by top U.S. and Soviet officials.

Mr. Reagan, with a smiling Mr. Gorbachev at his side, quoted several times from Russian proverbs and declared of the treaty: "We made this impossible

vision a reality." He added that although strong differences remain between the two countries, "we see what can be accomplished when we pull together."

Mr. Gorbachev said: "We can be proud of planting this sapling which one day may grow into a mighty tree of peace... but it is probably too early to bestow laurels on each other."

"May Dec. 8, 1987 become a date that will be inscribed in the history books, a date that will mark the watershed separating the era of mounting risk of nuclear war from the era of the demilitarization of human life."

The signing of the treaty, one copy in Russian and the other in



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan sign a treaty on Tuesday banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles

English, took place with hundreds of dignitaries and reporters looking on. In the audience were U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who negotiated much of the treaty.

Following the signing, the two leaders stood to the sound of applause and exchanged the leather-bound documents, shaking hands warmly.

Leaders of the U.S. senate must ratify the American adherence to the accord before it can take effect.

Also watching were Mr. Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, and Mr. Reagan's wife, Nancy. Under terms of the accord, the United States will over three years scrap 396 Pershing 2 and

cruise missiles deployed in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium, and the Soviets will destroy 683 rockets, about 50 of which are in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"The importance of this treaty transcends numbers," said Mr. Reagan. "This agreement contains the most stringent verification procedures in arms-control history."

He said the accord protects America's friends and allies and that it could be a starting point for approaching other concerns of the superpowers — strategic weapons, the balance of conventional forces in Europe, regional conflicts and human rights.

Mr. Gorbachev called for the leaders to continue moving towards "an era of demilitarization of human life."

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan held the first round of their summit conference on Tuesday, saying they intended to make progress to cutting their long-range nuclear

(Continued on page 3)

Police nab 3-man gang behind murder of moneychanger and JD 100,000 robbery

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-man gang responsible for the murder of a moneychanger in Amman five months ago has been arrested and the criminals have confessed to the killing and armed robbery, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Majali, director-general of the PSD, speaking at a press conference to announce the arrest and details of the crime, identified the three as Ahmad Salem, 22, Nasser Ali, 28, and Ahmad Shweh, 24. Lt.-Gen. Majali said that while Salem was the "mastermind" behind the crime, Shweh provided the getaway car and Ali was the actual killer.

Mohammad Al Bashiti, 22, a Jordanian moneychanger, was shot dead in the Jabal Hussein area on July 6, 1987, as he was leaving home for work carrying about JD 100,000 in Jordanian

and foreign currency. First reports had indicated that it was the work of a lone gunman who fled with the bag carrying the money. It was the first reported armed robbery in the Kingdom.

According to earlier reports, Mr. Bashiti resisted the assailant and in the ensuing struggle the criminal shot him. The young businessman was struck by at least four of the five bullets fired, according to police reports at the time.

Lt.-Gen. Majali told Tuesday's press conference that the stolen money had not been recovered, but "all conclusive evidence" had been collected by police before they made the arrest. The PSD chief revealed that the gang had burned the bag which contained the money and the shirt that the murderer was wearing at the time of the crime.

The money was shared among the three, Lt.-Gen. Majali said. One of them got married, another bought himself a car while the third criminal bought



A police photograph of the three men who have confessed to the July 6, 1987 murder of Mr. Mohammad Bashiti

some sheep to raise, Lt.-Gen. Majali said.

Explaining the background of the crime, Lt.-Gen. Majali said it was premeditated. First, the three planned to stage an armed attack on Mr. Bashiti's

moneychanging firm in downtown Amman but changed the plan apparently because they thought it was too risky, the PSD chief said. They switched their

(Continued on page 3)

Seoul seeks extradition of KAL mystery woman

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A South Korean envoy arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday to seek extradition of a mystery woman Seoul officials suspect of planting a bomb on a Korean jet missing with 115 people aboard.

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil was due to meet senior officials to discuss the extradition of the Asian woman held at an island prison off Bahrain.

South Korean officials believe the woman, who swallowed a cyanide capsule after her arrest, is one of two North Korean agents they suspect of planting a bomb on the plane, which vanished on Nov. 29.

The woman and the other suspected agent, an elderly Asian man, were held at Bahrain airport as they tried to leave for Rome on Dec. 1. The man died after taking cyanide.

The pair, carrying false Japanese passports, left the Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 in Abu Dhabi hours before it vanished over the Thai-Burmese border. Searchers have found no trace of the aircraft.

Evidence against the woman so far appears circumstantial, but diplomatic sources said Tokyo also thought she and her companion were North Korean agents. Bahraini authorities want to resolve the case but officials said an extradition request must be backed by solid evidence.

North Korea has denied any connection with the disappearance of the airliner and said the suspects in Bahrain were obviously Japanese.

A major Japanese newspaper said Tuesday that Bahraini authorities had discovered traces of gunpowder on a money belt worn by the man who committed suicide.

The mass-circulation Mainichi Shimbun, citing a report it said reached Japanese police from Bahrain on Monday night, said Bahrain authorities detected the gunpowder during a chemical examination of the money belt.

Three Japanese police officials are in Bahrain investigating the case, it said.

In Seoul, some 200 angry relatives of the passengers lost on the plane staged a protest march Tuesday and scuffled with police who tried to stop them.

The protesters engaged in pushing and shoving with police in front of Kimpo international airport when they staged a sit-down protest.

Iraqi planes strafe Iranian tanker

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes attacked an Iranian shuttle tanker in the Gulf on Tuesday, and Lloyd's shipping intelligence identified the vessel as the 317,824-tonne Al Amoot.

Iran claimed its ground units on Monday shot down two Soviet-built Iraqi jet fighters, one with a U.S.-made Stinger missile. Iraq denied the loss of any aircraft.

It was the first time Iran claims the use of the shoulder-fired projectile against Iraqi aircraft in the seven-year-old war.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, was quoted as saying a major Iranian offensive against Iraq could be launched anytime and anywhere along the front, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi jets scored "accurate and effective hits against a very big naval target," usually signifying a tanker, at 1:40 p.m. (1040 GMT).

Lloyds, which monitors shipping worldwide, said the Al Amoot, an Iranian steam tanker, was hit in the Iraqi strike while ferrying oil from the key Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf to Larak Island facility in the Strait of Hormuz. It was hit south of the Iranian

Genscher hopes for superpower moves to resolve Mideast problems

CAIRO (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on Tuesday, after talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, he hoped the superpower summit would help find solutions to Middle East regional problems.

Mr. Genscher, on a 24-hour visit to Egypt, told reporters he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral economic and political ties and "the serious international issues."

Both leaders hoped the Washington summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would "lead to further progress on arms reduction and serve to further rapprochement in... regional problems," he said.

He mentioned only efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Genscher said West Germany would support all efforts in this direction, including those by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to get a Gulf war ceasefire resolution adopted last July implemented.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid said there was total understanding between Cairo and Bonn. "Views were identical on many of the topics discussed," he said.

West Germany assumes the chairmanship of the European Community (EC) in January for six months and Mr. Abdul Meguid said Mr. Genscher's visit was an opportunity to brief him on the Middle East situation.

The community has supported the Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Genscher earlier signed two agreements to reschedule 870 million marks (\$524 million) in Egyptian debt to Bonn and to avoid double taxation.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said the accords would help create a new flow of West German investment in Egypt which would boost trade.

Mr. Genscher welcomed the Arab summit decision last month to free Arab states to restore ties with Egypt, broken in 1979 over its treaty with Israel.

Israeli soldier killed in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was killed and a second wounded on Tuesday when their armoured personnel carrier drove over a mine in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the army said. The blast occurred in the central sector of the zone, north west of Bint Jbeil, a spokeswoman said. In a separate incident, militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) repelled a guerrilla attack, also in the central sector of the "security zone," sources said. The SLA militiamen found missiles and rocket-propelled grenades in the area of the clash and blood stains suggesting some guerrillas had been injured, they added. Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985, three years after it invaded the country. Several hundred Israeli soldiers remained to patrol the "security zone" with the SLA.



Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz bids farewell to His Majesty King Hussein upon King Hussein's departure from Riyadh Tuesday (Petra photo)

King returns after visit to S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday evening at the end of a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

During the visit, the King held talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and exchanged views with him on major issues on the Arab scene, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King's talks with the Saudi leader crowned a series of meetings the monarch has undertaken in the wake of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

Petra said Monday that His Majesty's talks with King Fahd covered the outcome of the summit and "recent efforts aimed at bolstering Arab solidarity and the higher interests of the Arab Nation."

At the summit the King crowned his efforts at mediating differences between Syria and Iraq by arranging a meeting between President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on the fringes of

the conference. Since then, His Majesty has been following up efforts to speed up the process of normalising ties between Damascus and Baghdad and visited both capitals. His Majesty also met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak earlier this week.

On his way back home from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, the King, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, made a stop-over at Medina and prayed at the Tomb of the Prophet Mohammad and visited the tombs of the Companions of the Prophet and Muslim martyrs.

The King was received upon his arrival at and departure from Medina by Governor Prince Abdul Majid Ibn Abdul Aziz of Medina and other senior Saudi officials.

The King was received upon his return home by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Cabinet members and other senior officials.

Israelis maintain curfew on Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

(Agencies) — Israeli troops maintained a curfew on Gaza City for the third consecutive day on Tuesday following the killing of a Jewish settler in the occupied Gaza Strip by Palestinian activists, an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

She corrected an earlier statement that the curfew had been lifted but declined to explain the discrepancy.

The settler died in hospital on Sunday a few hours after he was attacked.

Israel Radio said most of the suspects arrested after the killing were released while a few remained in police custody for questioning.

The Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, suggested demilitarising the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday in an angry exchange with right-wing legislators who

demanding that Israel annex the area in response to the killing.

Mr. Peres, leader of the Labour Party, criticised Israelis who, with government backing, have settled on nearly a third of the land in the Gaza Strip.

Yuval Neeman of the right-wing opposition Tehiya Party said on Tuesday that Mr. Peres's statements would lead to increased attacks on Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In another development, Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian on Monday after he allegedly refused to stop his car on a road in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli sources quoted by Reuters said soldiers patrolling a main road in Dhahiriya village near Hebron were forced to dodge the vehicle as it suddenly sped towards them.

EC, Israel near accord over Palestinian exports

BRUSSELS (R) — Israel and the European Community (EC) were on Tuesday close to settling a dispute over Palestinian farm exports to Europe, smoothing the way for the EC to approve tariff cuts for key agricultural exports from Israel itself.

Diplomats in Brussels said Israel and the EC's executive commission had agreed that Palestinian farmers would have the choice of exporting directly to the EC without having to go through Israeli government marketing bodies.

The community has pressed hard for the Israeli government to drop its insistence that all Palestinian exports must be channelled through the marketing monopolies.

Some EC member states had unofficially made progress on the issue a condition for approving new economic protocols between Israel and the 12-nation bloc that would cut tariffs for Israeli exports of cut flowers and other produce, diplomats said.

Israel has protested to the Europeans over what it considers unfair linkage of the issues.

The so-called common position agreed between the commission and Israel on Palestinian exports could be finalised later on Tuesday and it must then be approved by member states, probably on Wednesday, and be ratified by the European Parliament next week, the diplomats said.

Under the agreement Palestinian farmers would have the choice of continuing to export through Israeli marketing monopolies or selling directly to European clients.

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Paris expels exiled Iranians to Gabon

PARIS (Agencies) — France expelled 17 exiled opponents of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to the West African state of Gabon on Tuesday as part of efforts to improve ties with Iran.

The Interior Ministry said the 14 Iranians and three Turks were all members or sympathisers of the People's Mujahadeen organisation, a Baghdad-based guerrilla group fighting the Tehran government.

The Mujahadeen denounced the arrest of the 17 on Monday as payment by France of a "ransom" for the release last month of two French hostages in Beirut by a pro-Iranian underground group.

The Interior Ministry said nine other Mujahadeen members living in France — eight Iranians and one Turk — were forbidden to leave their place of residence. In a statement, it said the expulsions were rushed through "for pressing reasons of national security."

"Their activities in our country constituted an immediate and grave threat to public order and harmed France's interests in the world," it said.

Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi, who was himself forced to leave France for Baghdad in June last year, denounced the detention of his supporters as part of an "ugly deal" with Tehran.

The government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has denied paying any ransom for the release of hostages Roger Audue and Jean-Louis Normandin, but it acknowledges it is seeking to improve ties with Iran.

A week after the hostages' release, France allowed Iranian embassy official Vahid Gordji, wanted for questioning about bombings which killed 13 people in Paris last year, to leave the country after a summary appearance before a French magistrate.

France has close ties with

Gabon, a former colony on the west coast of Africa, and has expelled Spanish Basque refugees there by agreement with President Omar Bongo.

In general, expellees leave Gabon as soon as they can find a country closer to home to live in. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Geneva, on Tuesday it had contacted the French Foreign Ministry to seek assurances France would respect the rights of the Iranian exiles detained.

The Commission asked the Ministry why the exiles were held and what guarantees would be given to those with refugee status.

Mr. Rajavi appealed in vain on Monday to President Francois Mitterrand to stop the expulsions.

A spokesman for the group said earlier that the 17 had started a hunger strike while Mr. Rajavi had protested to the UNHCR.

Despite denials from the French government, most commentators believe the expulsions form part of a deal with Iran which will eventually lead to the release of the last three French hostages in Lebanon.

Apart from clamping down on the Mujahadeen, which is now fighting alongside Iraqi forces in the seven-year-old Gulf war against Iran, France has held out the prospect of a quick settlement of a financial dispute.

France paid Iran \$330 million in November last year in part repayment of a contested billion dollar loan. A second instalment is expected soon.

Iran has always demanded that Paris curb exile activities on French soil, repay the contested

loan and end its military backing for Iraq as the price for normal relations. But Prime Minister Chirac has ruled out full ties until Iran makes sure that all French hostages held in Lebanon are released by their kidnappers.

The crackdown drew widespread criticism.

"Shame on the Chirac government, which by this unworthy gesture denies the right of asylum and makes a pact with the Khomeini dictatorship," said Jack Lang of the opposition Socialist Party.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, speaking at a political rally in the city of Avallon south east of Paris on Monday night, rejected the attacks.

"We have no lessons to learn from anyone," he said. "We will never accept French people being held hostage, and we will do everything in our power, without compromising ourselves, without regard to other peoples' whining."

Mr. Pasqua said he had the key role in arranging for the Nov. 27 release of Auke and Normandin.

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, has been held the longest. He was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

"The Chirac government has dishonoured itself," Mujahadeen member Mohammad Ali Masoumi said at a news conference at the group's headquarters in Auviers-Sur-Oise north of Paris after the expulsions were announced.

"If anything happens to them, we know who is responsible for it," said Mr. Masoumi, who said he was detained Monday by police with other Mujahadeen members, but was later released.

Rains kill 5 troops in Beirut barracks

BEIRUT (R) — Torrential rains undermined a military barracks in east Beirut on Tuesday bringing it crashing down onto sleeping soldiers, killing five and injuring three.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun supervised rescue workers who dragged the bodies of the military policemen from the rubble at the flooded Jisr Al Basha barracks after dawn.

Lightning hit the transmitters of Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio, knocking it briefly off the air.

Zionists clash over religion and politics

TEL AVIV (R) — The 31st world Zionist congress erupted from torpor into strife on Tuesday with delegates from around the world attacking religious coercion and political patronage in Israel.

Disputes at the five-day congress, which opened on Sunday, boiled over briefly into fist fights as rightists furious at the allegations demanded an apology be made to Israel's chief rabbis.

Speakers deplored orthodox Judaism's monopoly on religious affairs in Israel and efforts by religious parties to restrict the definition of "who is a Jew" and to ban entertainment on the Jewish Sabbath.

"Messianic politics is madness," declared Rabbi Arthur Herzberg, a senior leader of liberal Jews in the United States, to applause.

He said that if the religious parties were not prepared to be pragmatic, there would have to be a complete separation of synagogue and state.

Veteran religious politician Yosef Burg, a minister in Israeli governments for more than 30 years until he retired last year, was jeered when he criticised a coalition between the Labour Party and liberal and reform Jews at the congress.

Fist fights broke out on the conference floor when a rightist liberal Israeli delegate, Uzi Cohen, demanded that the congress apologise to Israel's chief rabbis.

Security men grabbed young rightist delegates and the chairman silenced Cohen.

Ruth Pokin, a reform Jew and head of the powerful American women's Zionist organisation Hadassah, complained: "The first thing that happens when we arrive in Israel is that we are attacked."

U.S. embargo on Iran oil having little effect

By Robert Trautman
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A United States embargo imposed on Iranian oil six weeks ago has so far had little impact on Iran's shipments, but it has forced Tehran to offer heavy price discounts, U.S. government and oil industry analysts say.

"U.S. oil purchases from Iran, even at their height last summer, were small by overall Iranian sales, and so the total U.S. embargo is not likely to hurt Iran much," said Gary Sick, an Iran scholar at the Ford Foundation. Mr. Sick said in a telephone interview with Reuters that "the key is not whether those sanctions are going to have much impact, but whether other countries are going to join."

So far major U.S. allies have refused to go along with the sanctions applied by President Reagan on Oct. 29.

At the time, Mr. Reagan said he was acting to retaliate for Iran's attacks on U.S. forces in the Gulf, its backing of terrorism and its refusal to accept a United Nations ceasefire in its war with Iraq. Iran relies on oil exports to finance the seven-year-old war

with Iraq. "U.S. allies have been extremely reluctant to go along with it (the embargo)," Mr. Sick said, adding that he saw no evidence they would.

U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington has said that, for the embargo to hurt Iran, other allies, notably Japan and Italy would have to join it and stop buying Iranian oil.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But they have not. "The Iranians aren't having any difficulty finding buyers, although they are having trouble selling it at market prices," said one U.S. oil analyst in an interview with Reuters.

Iran is being forced to discount oil by as much as \$3 a barrel — \$2 in price and \$1 in transport costs — from a world price of \$18 to \$20 a barrel, said the analyst, who asked that his name not be used.

France, a major buyer, already had an embargo on Iranian oil, which it imposed last summer after breaking off diplomatic relations with Iran. Its action then flooded world markets with excess oil.

The French embargo was parti-

cularly effective. Iran once provided France with 15 to 20 per cent of its crude, traders there say, and now no Iranian crude is being recorded as entering French ports.

Iran was forced to discount the price of its excess oil after the French move and the situation was made worse by the U.S. sanctions, oil analysts said.

Mr. Sick said that, with Franco-Iranian relations improving, France might resume buying Iran's oil.

Italy, a major importer of Iranian oil, has given it no official support and traders think it is unlikely to do so.

In Bonn, a spokesman for West Germany, which is a minor buyer of Iranian oil, said: "The government has no plans to follow the U.S. decision to put an embargo on Iranian oil. We are against embargoes."

Some British traders say the full impact of the sanctions will not be known for some weeks, when tankers of Iranian crude finish their six-week journey to Europe from the Gulf.

Herrington has suggested in recent interviews that some buyers do not want to touch Iranian oil, saying "you've got

Iranian ships sitting off Rotterdam and people asking 'whose oil is that' before they buy it."

One analyst said Iran had been dumping oil in Rotterdam and Singapore, and it was being bought by some subsidiaries of U.S. oil firms, for sale outside the United States.

He added: "If anyone knows anything about it, you can pump more Iranian crude into Europe and European crude (from the North Sea) out to the United States."

But discounting, he said, has another effect on a major buyer of Iranian crude, Japan.

Analysts in Washington and Tokyo say the Japanese have not stopped buying Iranian oil, but are demanding that Iran sell them oil at a discount, rather than at higher, previously contracted prices.

As a result, the impact of the embargo on Iran has been small, analysts say.

Said Charles Ebinger, an oil analyst with the consulting firm of Putnam, Hayes and Bartlett: "Iran's income has been hurt, but it's minuscule. They seem to have sold the oil that they couldn't sell to the United States."

Scottish businessman sentenced in Libya trade case

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — A Scottish businessman accused with an American couple of violating an embargo banning U.S. trade with Libya was sentenced to 10 months in jail.

Francis George Christie, 51, of Aberdeen, Scotland, was freed immediately after the hearing because he already had served the prison time while cooperating with government prosecutors investigating the case.

U.S. district Judge Rudi Brewster also placed Christie on five years probation and fined him \$18,000, which the judge estimated covered the cost of housing Christie at downtown Metropolitan Correctional Centre for 10 months.

Christie was the prosecution's star witness against a Gretna, Louisiana, couple, Cheryl and George Smith. They were convicted Friday of 11 counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States, making illegal exports to Libya, and making false statements about the scheme.

Christie allegedly acted as a go-between for the Smiths, who operated a Louisiana oil supply company, and the Libyans through his Scotland-based petrochemical equipment distributing firm, Christie Noble Services Ltd.

Arafat, Goulding discuss Mideast peace

TUNIS (R) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat has held talks with a top United Nations envoy on a proposed Middle East peace conference, the Palestinian News Agency Wafa said on Tuesday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader returned to his Tunis headquarters from North Yemen on Monday to meet U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, it said.

Mr. Goulding discussed the peace conference with Mr. Arafat in Tunis in June after touring Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

As well as the proposed U.N.-

sponsored conference aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, the two men discussed during their latest talks the results of last month's Arab summit in Amman, Wafa said.

Mr. Goulding also met Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran.

In Cairo, Mr. Goulding had talks on Monday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid as part of a Middle East tour to assess prospects for an international conference on peace in the region.

"We are trying to push the peace process. The Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar)

is working very hard to make progress," Mr. Goulding told reporters after the 30-minute session.

Efforts to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict have been blocked by Israel's prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, although the idea has strong backing from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Goulding arrived in Cairo from Tunis, where he met Tunisian officials and Mr. Arafat. Mr. Goulding said his visits were a follow-up to his last Middle East tour in July, when he sounded out leaders on peace conference prospects.

EC Commission opens contacts in Turkey

ANKARA (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) Commission opened contacts with Turkey on Tuesday following Ankara's application last April for full EC membership.

Commission sources said. A two-man team headed by Jean-Joseph Schved, head of the Commission's North Mediterranean Division, met businessmen in Istanbul before talks with officials in Ankara.

The sources said the three-day talks, the first since Turkey's application, would be largely technical to help prepare a report for the Commission.

Turkey's Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, returned to power in a general election on Nov. 29, has made EC entry the top foreign policy goal of his new term.

Mr. Ozal, who has yet to name his new cabinet, is currently in the United States, with top offi-

cials, for talks with banks. The premier also had eye surgery in Houston on Saturday.

Mr. Schved and assistant Michel Manceau will have talks at the Foreign and Finance ministries, and with officials at the State Planning Organisation and other departments, the sources said.

Jean Durieux, an EC administrator for Mediterranean policy and North-South relations, is due to visit Ankara next month.

Turkey's application met with a poor response from some EC members sceptical about its progress to full democracy after three military coups since 1960 and its record on human rights.

Some EC states also believe that Turkey, predominantly Muslim and straddling Asia and Europe, is not European.

Ankara signed an associate EC membership agreement in 1963.

In a separate development, police on Monday detained two defence lawyers for the two Turkish Communist leaders who were arrested after returning home from exile, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported.

According to the dispatch, lawyers Rasim Oz and Atila Coskun were detained shortly after they visited the two Communist leaders at Ankara's high-security prison, their first meeting since the politicians arrived in Turkey last month.

The dispatch did not say why Mr. Oz and Mr. Coskun were detained, and prosecutors and police could not be reached for comment.

Eight other defence lawyers who attended the meeting watched by Mr. Oz and Mr. Coskun were led away from the prison by police.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 7311-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES			
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 News Review 15:55 Woodie Woodpecker 16:20 Children's programme 18:10 Local series 18:40 News Bulletin 19:15 Local Programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Cultural programme 22:20 Wrestling 23:00 News summary		EXHIBITIONS ★ "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23) ★ An exhibition of Creative Photography by Aram Darakjian (until Dec. 10) ★ An art exhibition entitled "The Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 17)		SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817254.		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA) 08:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR) 08:30 Beirut (ME) 08:40 Damascus, Tripoli (PK) 10:30 Cairo (MS) 13:00 Damascus, Sana'a (YI) 13:00 Tripoli (LN) 13:00 Baghdad (IA) 13:45 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV) 23:15 Karachi (PK)		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Ali Asa'ad 897919 Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Awad 846700 Dr. Bassam Al-Senadi 896778 Dr. Issam Abu Riqz 611784 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 873336 Al Aswani pharmacy 637055 Natrak pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 French programme 17:45 "Champs Elysees" — Variety programme 19:00 News in French 19:15 Local magazine "Aujourd'hui en Jordanie" 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Sport School 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 News in Arabic 21:10 Documentary — Well-being — Breaking Out 22:00 News in English 23:30 News in English 23:10 Hi De Hi		CINEMA ★ "Ran" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. LECTURE ★ By Dr. M. Korten, President of Federal Institute for Geo-Sciences and Raw Materials at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute. VIDEO ★ Plastic Art at 4:00 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 644371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 639777 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Hava Arts Centre 665195 Husseini Youth City 6671876 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 843555		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:15 Agaba (RU) 09:30 Cairo (RU) 09:30 Kuwait (RU) 09:30 Damascus (RU) 09:50 Bahrain (RU) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU) 16:45 Cairo (RU) 17:40 Athens (RU) 18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RU) 18:15 London, Geneva (RU) 18:15 Istanbul (RU) 18:30 Madrid, Belgrade (RU) 18:45 Bangkok (RU) 18:45 Riyadh (RU) 18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RU) 23:55 Baghdad (RU)		TAXIS: Kayyabi taxi 636730 Tastina taxi 646060 Tamer taxi 666467 Raghdan taxi 842400 Raqaq taxi 726428 Seyal taxi 776131			
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 960 KHz. SW Tel: 7311-19		MUSEUMS ★ "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hava Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:00 Agaba (RU) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RU) 11:30 Athens (RU) 12:00 Geneva, London (RU) 12:30 Cairo (RU) 13:30 Riyadh (RU) 19:35 Bahrain (RU) 19:40 Doha (RU) 19:50 Bahrain (RU) 19:55 Baghdad (RU) 20:00 Jeddah (RU) 20:15 Paris, Damascus (AF) 20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81381353 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816 Aklil Maternity, J. Amn. 6424102 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 6647174 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 669131 Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 66612757 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajirah 771015 Al-Basit, J. Ashrafieh 77511726 Army, Marka 89161115 Queen Alia Hospital 6023450 Amal Hospital 674155			
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 1170, 1195 and 1520 KHz. 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline				PRAYER TIMES 04:58 Fajr 06:22 Sunrise/Dhuhr 11:28 Dhuhr 14:12 Asr 16:33 Maghreb 17:58 Isha		GENERAL Jordan Television 7731119 Radio Jordan 7741119 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666012 Price complaints 66176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 17 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11			
				WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology: A slight increase in temperature is expected. Medium and high clouds will appear with southerly to westerly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas. Min./max. temp. Amman 9/17 Agaba 12/26 Deserts 7/19 Jordan Valley 14/24 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Agaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent, Agaba 35 per cent.		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (different kinds) 300 / 250 Apple (French) 400 / 350 Banana 350 / 300 Banana (Muhassar) 300 / 250 Beans 160 / 120 Beans (broad) 500 / 400 Beetroot 150 / 120 Cabbage 70 / 40 Carrot 320 / 160 Cauliflower 100 / 70 Cucumbers 280 / 240 Dates (box) 1200 / 1000 Eggplant (large) 70 / 40 Eggplant (small) 330 / 100 Garlic 450 / 350			
						GRAPEFRUIT 140 / 100 Guava 140 / 100 Lemon 130 / 90 Mandarin 130 / 120 Marrow 120 / 80 Onion (green) 140 / 100 Onion (dry) 180 / 120 Oranges (Abu Surra) 280 / 220 Oranges (Shamouti) 180 / 150 Pepper (hot) 140 / 100 Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80 Potato 280 / 220 Radish 80 / 50 Spinach 100 / 70 Tomatoes 140 / 100 Turnip 150 / 100			

Seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals industry to discuss production, controls

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on Arab pharmaceuticals due to open in Amman on Dec. 14 will discuss production of high-quality pharmaceutical products and controls over medicine production and imported medicine, according to Dr. Abdul Mutaleb Nasser, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances.

He told a press conference here that the seminar will also review working papers on the role of the newly-established Arab federation and its objectives and the

economics of the pharmaceutical industry in the Arab World.

The seminar has been organised in response to a call by the Council of Arab Health Ministers, which has been supporting the pharmaceuticals industry, with the purpose of providing high-quality pharmaceutical products to the Arab people and ensuring medicine security for the Arab World, Dr. Nasser said.

More than 100 pharmacists and representatives of Arab pharmaceutical industries will be taking part in the meetings, in addition to delegates from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and Swiss and American pharmaceutical companies.

The Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances, which is organising the seminar, was established in 1986 upon a call from the Arab health ministers. The federation, which is headquartered in Amman, groups 23 members representing medical and pharmaceutical industries in the Arab World.

Zarqa Governorate plans to build schools, increase services as population grows

By Nash'at Al Majali
Petra

ZARQA — A contract to set up 20 new schools throughout Zarqa Governorate was awarded recently, coming in line with the Ministry of Education's efforts to end the two-shift school system.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Tuesday, Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh described the situation of education and the availability of schools in relation to population as "satisfactory." With a population nearing 450,000, Zarqa is the second largest governorate, after Amman.

Mr. Qataneh, whose governorate has an agro-industrial economic base, said that plans were underway to expand the rooms in a number of existing schools and to construct modern buildings, in order to provide a suitable atmosphere conducive to attracting as many students as possible.

In his wide-ranging interview, Mr. Qataneh talked about the governorate's water, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications and health services and discussed developments achieved in the sectors of agriculture, industry, tourism and public works.

Despite the progress achieved in all these fields and sectors, Mr. Qataneh maintained that the citizens of the governorate, in general, and those of the city of Zarqa, in particular, "were in dire need of the best of services."

"The effects of the services offered to people here are, more or less, not evident" due to the rapid expansion in construction, an increase in population and rapid migration to the governorate, as well as opening new roads and asphalted others, according to the Zarqa governor.

Mr. Qataneh revealed that electricity was extended to 96 per cent of the governorate's towns, cities and villages, while drinkable water reached 95 per cent of the population.

Describing the telecommunications facilities in the governorate as "good," Mr. Qataneh said the entire governorate enjoyed 780 national telephone channels, divided among the following cities as follows: Zarqa (370), Dailat (60), Sukheh and Hashimieh (60) and the Zarqa Free Zone Corporation (90). He predicted that "Zarqa will be in the lead of Jordanian cities in terms of making available telephone connections for every house, company and trade institution."

According to Mr. Qataneh the basic health services, together with adequate hospital beds and hospital services, available here cover the citizens' medical treatment needs. There are 13 hospitals in the governorate in addition to numerous primary health care centres.

In addition, he said that an "ambitious scheme" for building a 637-dunum youth sports city complex, including cultural facilities, was currently being discussed for possible implementation by the concerned officials. A plan to green the governorate in accordance with a gradual, annual plan is already underway, he added.

The department for public works is also carrying out the necessary maintenance of major roads and networks in the governorate, as well as opening new roads and asphalted others, according to the Zarqa governor.

Mr. Qataneh noted that committee for revitalising tourism activities in the governorate has been formed and entrusted with carrying out maintenance work on archaeological sites and discussing the possibilities of developing the area's tourist attractions.

On important and numerous agricultural projects executed during the past two years, Mr. Qataneh pointed to the following activities: a project for developing the highlands, at a cost of JD 455,000; another scheme for developing the Zarqa River Basin, at a cost of JD 487,000; and two projects for planting trees and preventing soil erosion at a cost of JD 120,000.

In a related development, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud chaired a meeting on Tuesday to evaluate the work on developing the Zarqa River Basin, in light of a report submitted on the scheme by a consultancy firm.

In addition to discussing the report, the meeting evaluated two other reports on the scheme prepared by its administration and the project's technical committee.

Mr. Hmoud stressed the importance of this project in the process of agricultural development in Jordan. The minister called on the parties involved in the project to find the best options and possibilities for meeting its goals.

Crown Prince meets Malaysian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday conferred with Malaysian Agriculture Minister Dr. Dato Seri Sanusi bin Javed, who attended the seminar on food security in the Muslim World which concluded here on Monday evening.

During the meeting, they discussed Jordanian-Malaysian relations and scopes for further cooperation, in line with Prince Hassan's call for an increase in cooperation between Arab countries and the Association of South East Asian Nations.

The Malaysian minister later left for home at the end of his visit to Jordan.

Princess Basma attends graduation in Mafrag

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday attended a ceremony for the graduation of participants in training courses in teaching kindergarten, typing, dressmaking and artificial flower-making at the Mafrag social community centre.

The graduation ceremony, coinciding with Jordan's celebrations marking International

Voluntary Day, was attended by Mafrag Governor Fayez Abbadi and other local officials. Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the graduates.

After speeches on the occasion, Princess Basma opened a vegetable oil refinery, a soap factory and an olive oil-canning factory. Mr. Hawamdeh said that, in addition, he discussed with Tunisian officials the possibility of setting up a joint venture for refining and canning olive oil. He pointed out that a Tunisian team is currently on a working visit to Jordan to conduct a feasibility study on the joint project.

Jordan, Tunisia hold talks on increasing trade

TUNIS (Petra) — The under-secretary of the Ministry of Supply, Abdullah Hawamdeh, currently in Tunis at the head of an official Jordanian delegation, on Tuesday held talks with the Tunisian minister of agriculture and food industries on aspects of trade and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hawamdeh said that his talks with the minister centred on prospects for Tunisia supplying Jordan with olive oil and importing Jordanian potash fertilisers.

Later Mr. Hawamdeh and his accompanying delegation visited a vegetable oil refinery, a soap factory and an olive oil-canning factory. Mr. Hawamdeh said that, in addition, he discussed with Tunisian officials the possibility of setting up a joint venture for refining and canning olive oil. He pointed out that a Tunisian team is currently on a working visit to Jordan to conduct a feasibility study on the joint project.

CAEU begins review of Arab economy today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 48th meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opens here today at the ministerial level.

CAEU Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi said in a statement that the Arab ministers of economy, trade and finance will discuss means of promoting trade among Arab countries which are members of the Arab Common Market, among other important topics.

In their two-day meeting, the

ministers will review a CAEU report on the general economic conditions in the Arab World and the adverse effects of the world economic recession on the Arab economy, as well as the economic conditions in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, Mr. Obeidi said.

He said that the participants will also review a general budget for the CAEU prepared by the representatives of Arab countries in their meetings last month at the CAEU headquarters.

Jordan, India sign plan for cultural exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and India on Tuesday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement for the period 1987-1989.

The programme encourages direct cooperation between cultural institutions and research centres in the two countries. The programme also aims to develop educational techniques through the exchange of visits by experts to study educational systems and to help bolster relations between universities in both countries.

for Jordan and India to carry out joint projects in the educational, cultural, scientific and technological fields. Both sides will also cooperate in the fields of antiquities, publication and other fields of common interest, in addition to exchanging visits by journalists, folkloric troupes and sports teams.

The programme was signed by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, secretary-general of the Ministry of Planning, and Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gurcharan Singh.

Industrial exhibition to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation (JTCC), in cooperation with Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and the Amman Chamber of Commerce, will hold the second Jordanian Industrial Exhibition in the Omani capital of Muscat on Dec. 27. JTCC sources have said.

The sources added that the corporation has begun distributing forms for those participating in the ten-day exhibition. The corporation also started receiving samples of the items to be displayed at the exhibition.

The JTCC also announced that a Jordanian trade centre has been established in Tunis, in implementation of the minutes of meetings by the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Trade Committee.

decided to establish trade centres for Tunisia and Jordan in Amman and Tunis, allowing each centre to sell goods worth \$5 million.

The JTCC said that Jordan is allowed to sell the following commodities in the Tunisian market: domestic appliances, sports footwear, woolen carpets, matches, gas ranges, kerosene heaters, pambulators, aluminium ladders, aluminium sheets, spectacle frames, suitcases and bags, socks, tobacco, electric bells, yeast, medicine, woolen textile products, plastic sheets for agricultural purposes, electric plugs, car radiators, car brakes, electric cables, water pipes, white cement, glass panes, marble, plastic ropes, baby food, tissue paper, razor blades, electric lifts, wooden kitchen fixtures and television antennas.

Haj Hassan praises Amman summit at opening of meeting of Arab social affairs ministers

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also president of the executive board of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, said on Tuesday that the Amman extraordinary summit formed a turning point in the march towards Arab solidarity, as well as a starting point for joint Arab work.



Khaled Al Haj Hassan

Addressing the opening session of the council's eighth meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan said that the Amman summit also embodied the keen interest of Arab leaders in crystallising a unified Arab stand to face all challenges confronting the Arab Nation.

"The summit," he added, "contributed effectively towards making regional issues understood at the international level, particularly the Palestine problem and the Iran-Iraq war."

Addressing one of the major topics to be discussed during the meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan stressed the need for supporting and revitalising Arab social work by devoting all human and financial resources towards the goal of development.

In addition, the minister emphasised the importance of integration in the field of social Arab work, saying that greater integration is necessary for achieving interaction between social and economic development.

Mr. Haj Hassan pointed out that social work constitutes the backbone of all efforts designed to mobilise Arab resources and ensure the welfare of all Arab citizens.

The minister then presented a brief report on the executive bureau's accomplishments during past year.

Also addressing the opening session was the current session's chairperson, Rashida 'Abdul Karim, the minister of social welfare and zakat in Sudan. Mrs. Abdul Karim called for the translation of the Amman summit resolutions into practical actions and urged the Arab social affairs ministers to be inspired by the spirit of unity which prevailed during the recent summit.

In a statement prior to his departure, the minister said that the council will discuss a report on measures for supporting the Arab Social Work Fund and a

pan-Arab strategy on social work for 1988, as well as social and demographic changes in Arab countries and the role of Arab women in labour and child development.

The report calls for increased cooperation among Arab states in social and labour activities and the promotion of social development projects in individual Arab countries.

During his stay in Tunis, Mr. Haj Hassan will hold separate talks with Arab ministers attending the council meeting on Jordan's cooperation with their respective countries in labour and social affairs.

Conference evaluates Arab economic integration

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The practicality of Arab economic integration and whether this concept is outdated was the main concern of participants during the second working session of the conference entitled "Economic Integration and European Economic Community (EEC) relations with Jordan," which ended its discussions here last week.

A general consensus reached among scholars, mainly economists, from Oxford University, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University reflected their doubt that regional integration was the answer to the Middle East's economic problems.

"Arab economic integration needs a fresh look, new circumstances and to be promoted intelligently," Robert Mabro from St. Antony's College at Oxford University said at the conclusion of the conference.

This assessment was based on Dr. Mabro's observations of Arab economic structures which, he said, are lopsided, as some countries are rich in natural resources, while others are lacking. He stressed that Arab countries have small economies and are oil dependent, whether they are oil rich or not.

Dr. Mabro pointed out that economic links between the Arab countries have not crystallised, adding that "the obstacle might be the political sense of independence."

This point was pursued further by his colleague, Roger Owen, who outlined the important factors underlying the pattern of economic interaction between the states of the Arab World and the various attempts which have been made to strengthen economic ties between them.

In a paper entitled "Arab Integration in Historical Perspective: Are there any lessons?" Dr. Owen referred to one of the basic reasons behind the failure to progress further towards an Arab common market after 1967. He said that integration which would involve trade promotion rather than trade diversion would have meant losses for national economic policies. In addition, this trade arrangement promised no immediate economic advantage to individual member states, as it represented a concerted, common effort to improve collective economic output, according to Dr. Owen.

Another problem Dr. Owen mentioned was the prospect of establishing a rigid timetable for the progressive abolition of intra-regional trade barriers, which

raised great expectations but proved impossible to carry out. "As a result, trade between the common market partners is estimated to have grown at little more than one per cent a year from 1965 to 1970. Meanwhile, no progress was reported with respect to efforts to set out a common external tariff or a common trade policy," he said.

Individual interests which have led to this situation were not in conformity with the basis of the Arab Common Market formed in 1957. Dr. Owen noted. He pointed out that this attempt at economic coordination was stimulated by Egypt's success in taking control of the Suez Canal and beating back the Anglo-French and Israeli invasions—an event which was identified by many of the Arab governments as a prime example of the advantage of Arab solidarity and of the proper repositioning of national economic resources.

His study shows that economic integration through trade cannot be as effective as integration through the exchange of oil revenues for labour, technical skills and opportunities for productive investment in the oil-poor Arab states.

Dr. Owen was supported by Dr. Mabro, who said, "There is a fact of development, but development is the condition for trade." Although he pointed out that labour migration between the Arab countries is one of the most visible signs of interdependence, he stressed that the percentage of Arab surplus funds invested in the Arab World is minimal, compared to the amount invested abroad.

Dr. Mabro listed fear of nationalisation, bureaucratic and institutional obstacles, lack of opportunities and restrictions of most countries as some of the main reasons behind the low rate of local investment. "Capital has no nationality; it goes where people believe it will bring returns. Oil wealth has produced positive benefits, but also negative effects, because it has diverted the Arab World from the economic front and the measures that must be taken for long-term development," he said, stressing that individual countries must develop their own economic policies before attempting to integrate with the other countries.

On the formulation of an economic policy for the Arab World, Dr. Owen said that economic opportunities presented by the implementation of models of integration based simply on trade creation remain poor and are unlikely to prove worthwhile.

Citing an adage put forward by a former member of the EEC, Dr. Owen said, "Either you have trade, in which case formal agreements are unnecessary; or you have agreements, and not much trade."

The Arab World, he said, seems to be divided between states, like Syria and Jordan, for which trade with their neighbours is significant enough to be continued without special agreements; and those states for which such trade is of too insignificant to require any special attention.

Trade diversion and export promotion based on a limited number of industries within a sub-regional grouping may have some success in the Middle East, according to Dr. Owen, as most Arab countries place heavy emphasis on industrialisation as the central motor of development. He noted that the opportunities in a tariff-protected regional market would help the Arab countries, in view of the difficulty of achieving competitiveness in internal markets.

Dr. Mabro added that instead of trading with Europe as a whole, the Arab countries could establish more beneficial relations with the smaller European countries, especially with southern European countries such as Spain and Italy. "However, this does not mean that we should not continue to build bridges with the rest of the European states," he added.

Additional remarks on prospects for greater integration were offered by Dr. Mabro. "I have been observing 'Arab unity' for 20 years, and I am beginning to wonder: If we want an ideal solution, will we get it? If we cannot get it on a greater scale, we should start with what exists and build in that direction. And for now, the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) exists," he said.

He suggested the development of sub-regional economic coalitions which could link with the GCC. "For example, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt could form a sub-regional group and, as a group, have relations with the GCC," Dr. Mabro said.

His suggestion differs with the attempts at integration between two or more Arab states since 1950, such as the short-lived United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria which existed from 1958-1961.

Another suggestion put forth by Dr. Mabro was associated membership to the GCC. He predicted, however, that this proposition would be rejected by the GCC due to political obstacles.

Police nab gang behind murder and robbery

(Continued from page 1)

plans to attack on Mr. Bashiti outside the firm and maintained a constant watch on the moneychanger's movements at home and outside. Lt. Gen. Majali said. Subsequently, the criminals decided that the best time for the attack was when Mr. Bashiti would be leaving home for work with money and carried out the crime at 8:15 a.m. on the street near his house, and all the three were present at the scene of the crime but only Ali took part in the actual killing, the PSD director said.

Lt. Gen. Majali said several people were eyewitnesses to the crime and were able to provide description of the killer to the authorities.

Soon after police began their investigations, it became apparent that not everyone who had important information was ready to cooperate with police for fear of getting involved in the inquiries, Lt. Gen. Majali said.

He noted that police had announced a JD 10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the murderer and had also provided a sketch of the

criminal which was made up from descriptions given by eyewitnesses.

Subsequently, police were able to pinpoint the suspects and kept them under close surveillance, he said. Their names were provided to all points of entry and exit to prevent their escape from the country, he added. By Nov. 30, police were able to gather all conclusive evidence against the three and then moved to arrest them. Upon interrogation, the three confessed and reenacted the crime at the actual scene, Lt. Gen. Majali said.

Superpowers sign INF agreement

(Continued from page 1)

arsenals in half. "The world is watching," said Mr. Reagan in a formal welcoming ceremony on the south lawn of the White House. "And we've got something to show them."

He was referring to the INF treaty. "This will of course be the first step down the road leading to a nuclear-free world," Mr. Gorbachev said of the treaty. "Yet it is a great step into the future."

"I have come to Washington with the intention of advancing the next and more important goal of reaching agreement to reduce by half strategic offensive arms in the context of a firm guarantee of strategic stability," Mr. Gorbachev said.

Mr. Reagan agreed. "Over the next few days, it is my hope that progress will be made toward achieving agreement on the long-range weapons," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev, received with full military honours, said the two men must strive to "undo the logic of the arms race" during three planned days of summit talks.

The Soviet leader said later that "there is a great similarity in the outlook on the world in our remarks today."

The nationally televised welcoming ceremony was a prelude

to five private talks between the superpower leaders.

Both men cited friendships between their nations but also referred to longstanding cold war antagonisms, and agreed that issues other than arms control would be on their agenda.

"We are also looking forward to a most serious and frank dialogue on other issues of Soviet-American relations," said Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Reagan said they should speak "with candor and meet differences head-on" and that he wanted to talk about human rights issues. He also said he wanted to discuss regional conflicts around the world.

"We cannot afford to view these as far-away brush fires," Mr. Reagan said.

Both leaders sounded hopeful. "It's up to us with hard work, commitment and a heavy dose of realism to change the poor peace that has existed between our countries and make it into a good one," Mr. Reagan said.

Said Mr. Gorbachev: "On behalf of the Soviet people, I declare that we are prepared to go all the way along our part of the road."

"I've often felt that our people should have been better friends long ago," Mr. Reagan said.

Several hundred people thronged the White House lawn as witnesses to the first visit of a

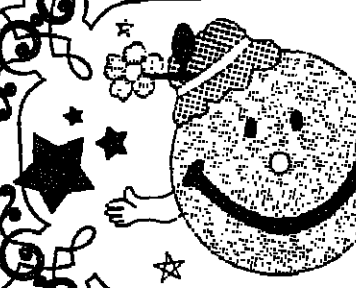
Soviet leader to Washington in 14 years, and Mr. Gorbachev's first trip to the United States since he assumed power in March 1985. He has met with Mr. Reagan twice, in 1985 and 1986.

Shortly afterwards, seated in an arm chair before a crackling fire at the heart of the White House, Mr. Gorbachev said that he and Mr. Reagan shared a similar outlook on world problems.

Reporters were allowed a brief encounter with the two men — the vigorous Soviet leader and the 76-year-old president, 20 years his senior, whose powers are waning in his last months in office.

"You might have noticed that there is a great similarity in the outlook on the world in our remarks today — myself and the president."

The committee had earlier de-



AL WAHA STORES
CHRISTMAS SHOW
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Reagan's trump card

THE question of raising human rights practices in the Eastern bloc countries is a favourite item in every forum that deals with U.S.-Soviet or East-West relations. In what seemed to be a prelude to the ongoing Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said: "Human rights is always on our agenda at every meeting we have with the Soviet Union. It will be on the agenda next week at the summit, and I believe that there will be a good chunk of the total time of the summit devoted to the subject of human rights." He also said that "there has not been nearly as much progress as we would hope for or as we would expect" in the advance of human rights in the Eastern bloc. However, Whitehead expressed optimism that "after the summit, there will be a lot of progress."

Not long ago, President Reagan alluded to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." By saying so he was only reciting a basic Western assumption that only the Western-style democratic system can guarantee fundamental human rights everywhere, while all human rights violations originate from the Socialist-communist system which is regarded as intrinsically evil. Lopsided as this assumption is, it allows Western political actors to claim moral superiority in international affairs. Certainly, it leads to the point of stark absurdity when put to the litmus test of the Middle East.

The Israeli political system is a carbon copy of the Western democratic system which has been nourished to grow with Western assistance and American dollars. Built into this system are laws precisely designed to violate human rights in the most blatant manner. For example, Israel's so-called Law of Return confers exclusive nationality rights only to the Jews; Arabs of Palestinian origin are denied such rights. Another example is the Law of Citizenship, which classifies Israeli Jews as having Jewish nationality and Israeli Arabs as having Arab nationality. And thirdly, "a wide range of national services are rendered to the Jewish population, while the Israeli Arabs are denied access to them. In other words, the civil liberties and human rights of the Arabs are trampled upon by a system that claims at the same time, to uphold the universality of human nature and human rights. When it comes to the question of the occupied territories, Israel knows no bounds in its human rights violations — torture, illegal detention, expropriation of Arab lands, collective punishment, demolition of houses, censorship and a host of other crimes which dehumanise an entire Arab population. The U.S. turns a blind eye to all these violations.

At the ongoing Washington summit, Mr. Reagan is likely to broach the subject of human rights practices in the Soviet Union. He would, in substance, want more Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. The human rights question, therefore, is a political trump card Mr. Reagan will probably play, at the behest of Israel, to elicit concessions, and the Soviets are not so naive as not to be aware of the rules of this game.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Monarch continues mission

KING Hussein's visit to Cairo and Riyadh which were preceded by visits to Baghdad and Damascus should be considered as a continuation of a mission to which the monarch has devoted his time and efforts in order to enhance the resolutions of the Amman summit meeting of last month. The King's current endeavours were complemented by the messages he had sent to different world leaders through Jordanian envoys, explaining the outcome of the summit and the unified stand of the Arab Nation. The Jordanian moves are being carried out in the name of all Arabs and for the sake of achieving solidarity among them all, and for mobilising all resources and all efforts towards finding solutions for the Gulf conflict and the Middle East problem. King Hussein is being watched by the Arab masses who are full of hope that his contacts with world leaders in general and Arab heads of state in particular will help fulfil the aspirations and the objectives of the Arab Nation. Arab masses are looking with hope to the implementation of the Amman summit resolutions which cannot be done without mobilising efforts of all Arab states and without charting joint action. We hope that the aspirations of the Arab masses will be achieved and the King will succeed in his endeavours, because the challenges and the threats facing our nation have become serious and the conspiracies are escalating and directed against all the Arab countries.

Al Dustour: Super hopes

THE Soviet-U.S. summit is being held against a world wide optimism that the leaders of the two giant nations will discuss and help to solve regional problems in addition to signing a treaty to curb nuclear weapons. There is no doubt that all peoples of the world look to this summit with hope that it will bring agreement between the superpowers on means of solving the world's issues; and the peoples of the Middle East hope that the superpowers will find a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the heads of the two giant nations are unwilling to discuss this problem or are not serious about a solution for it, then the Arab-Israeli conflict will remain as a hotbed of tension that could endanger world peace. If the superpowers fail to tackle this issue then they will allow Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land and its eviction of Arab people from their homeland in defiance of all U.N. resolutions. The United States is sure to do one thing at the summit: To ask the Soviet Union to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. This question is probably more important for the United States than a treaty on strategic weapons with the Soviet Union in view of the Zionist influence in the United States. The whole world is watching the summit to see what the two leaders will agree on, and we too are watching and hoping that the Soviet Union will adhere firmly to its own position with regard to the Middle East question and its ties with the Arab World.

By Natalie Warren-Green

LONDON (AF) — Some of the unhappiest people are to be found in occupations commonly aimed at making people laugh. Naji Al Ali provoked laughter, but of the bitter kind.

Rather than regale his audience with light hearted caricaturing of its favourite heroes, Naji made it pause and think and often have second thoughts about its idols. It wasn't art for art's sake, and it proved lethal — for the artist. For all that attention and the massive but muted following, Naji Al Ali paid with his life.

Ali Naji Awad Al Adhami, popularly known as Naji Al Ali, the Palestinian cartoonist, was gunned down by an unidentified assailant in London in 1972, discovered Naji's talent during a visit to Ain Al Helweh in the late 1950s.

Naji was largely a self-taught man. Although he joined an art institute in Lebanon in the early 1960s, his studies were short-lived. Naji discontinued his art course to work in Kuwait for the *Al Taji* magazine.

He returned to Beirut to join the editorial board of the Lebanese newspaper *As Safir* and contributed his drawings to *Al Khalij* newspaper until 1983, when, shortly after the Israeli invasion, he returned to Kuwait and worked for *Al Qabas* newspaper. By 1984, he was again publishing his drawings in *Al Khalij*.

As promising as Naji's career may at first glance appear, however, those who knew him were aware of the stress he experienced as a result of the controversy he created with his cartoons.

hands usually folded at the back, in a metaphor for a conscious rejection of surroundings.

Naji was born in 1938 in Al Shajara village in the Galilee and, when he was 10, the family had to leave home to live in exile in the southern Lebanese refugee camp of Ain Al Helweh.

"That is where the roots of Naji's outrage at the world around him lay," one of Naji's close friends, writer Khalid Kishtainy, said in an interview. "He used his cartoons to express the bitterness he felt within him."

"His experiences of the refugee camps greatly disturbed him, and he turned to art to vent his feelings."

The late poet Ghassan Kanafani, who was himself assassinated in Lebanon in 1972, discovered Naji's talent during a visit to Ain Al Helweh in the late 1950s.

Naji was largely a self-taught man. Although he joined an art institute in Lebanon in the early 1960s, his studies were short-lived. Naji discontinued his art course to work in Kuwait for the *Al Taji* magazine.

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Naji Al Ali: Art at death's doorstep



perceived as a result of the controversy he created with his cartoons.

"Naji was threatened on a number of occasions about the content of his work when he was in Kuwait," said Kishtainy.

"This caused problems for *Al Qabas*," he added, "that is why it was arranged for him to be transferred to England."

Naji began work in the London office of *Al Qabas* in October

1985, and he continued to contribute his work to *Al Khalij*.

His change of location did not stop the threats from people who featured in his cartoons. In fact, the threats became more sinister and insistent.

"Naji knew he was threatened and that his life was in danger," said Kishtainy, "his wife was extremely worried about him."

So why did Naji not change his style or themes?

Kishtainy says: "Naji had no belief in leaders, doctrines and philosophies of any kind. He was a devout Palestinian nationalist at heart but he never affiliated to any political organisation."

"He told me once," Kishtainy recalled, "that if he was killed for his cartoons, it would be an act of fate. He was prepared to risk it."

Sorrow, fury and disgust are strong sentiments which are conveyed throughout Naji's work.

An exhibition of his cartoons was organised by the friends of Naji, and presented by the Kufu Gallery, London, during November 1987. The collection provided a startling projection of Naji's themes.

Naji's wife and four children attended the opening. "We were all very proud of him," said his wife. "The cartoons were very popular."

From each wall of the crowded gallery, bold statements held a viewer's attention — the struggle for freedom of a suppressed people; barbed wire and ropes holding people down; and the power of the richer nations seen to grow at the expense of the less fortunate peoples.

One illustration, according to writer Buland Al Hayderi, presented the "shame of a fatherland that makes out of the skins of its murdered children footwear for its murderers."

But Naji's cartoons illustrated foremost a deep commitment to his chief causes, the Palestinian quest for a national identity and his personal struggle against those who sought to silence him. "Naji Al Ali never sought to

make anyone laugh," said Buland Al Hayderi, "but to provoke us in the extreme, to stir our disgust of a condemned reality and to deepen our awareness of an essential cause that brings us together in pain and expectation."

The consequence was tragic — he provoked the people at whom his work was aimed as well as the onlookers who he wished to inform.

The threats became increasingly malicious. A friend said that Naji received an anonymous telephone call in mid-June and was told: "You must correct your attitude. Don't say anything against the honest people."

Reports further indicate that Naji knew that he was in a dangerous position. Two weeks before the attack, he told the journal *Index on Censorship*, that he regarded himself a sitting target.

About three days before he was shot," recalled Kishtainy, "Naji's wife took one look at a cartoon and said, 'You've had it now'."

Naji was shot at close range through the right cheek on July 22, 1987, just outside the Chelsea offices of *Al Qabas*.

"We were all very shocked," a spokesman for the paper said. "Naji always had a smile for everyone whether he was under pressure or not, he did not seem at all worried about threats he may have received."

Another of his colleagues added, "We didn't think we were that important but someone obviously thinks we are."

The bitter taste of peace lingers on

Tony Walker and Andrew Whitley assess 10 years of Egyptian-Israeli relations, seeing the sometimes uneasy peace akin to a loveless marriage of opposites which survives because it suits both parties.

NOTHING illustrates better the gap in attitudes towards the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt than the two countries' differing approaches towards the 10th anniversary of late President Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem.

In Israel, it has been marked by conferences on peace, fresh calls for a dialogue with the Arabs and well-published memoirs of participants in the Camp David peace treaty process. Israeli journalists have been despatched to Cairo to test the mood 10 years after Mr. Sadat, defying many advisers including his foreign minister, flew to Jerusalem on November 19, 1977 to see Mr. Menachem Begin, prime minister, breaking for ever the mould of Middle East politics. The reporters have had a hard time finding much Egyptian response.

Those in government circles are particularly reluctant to draw attention to what remains an uncomfortable fact, for a country striving to refurbish its Arab credentials.

Less constrained are prominent figures who fell out with Mr. Sadat over his visit to Jerusalem, breaking ranks with the rest of the Arab World, which wanted a united front demanding Israel vacate the occupied territory in the Sinai, West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Ismail Fahmy, former foreign minister who resigned over the Sadat visit, said nothing has been achieved in the past decade to resolve the underlying Arab-Israeli dispute.

He acknowledged there had been gains, such as the return of the Sinai and 10 years of peace between Egypt and Israel, but said the price for the Arabs had been too high. If Mr. Sadat had resisted the temptation of a separate peace with Israel, progress would have been made towards solving the Palestinian problem. Instead, the situation had "changed completely" and the Jewish settlement drive in the West Bank and Gaza had placed additional obstacles to peace.

Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kamul — who succeeded Mr. Fahmy as foreign minister and subsequently resigned in protest at the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement whose second stage should have led to autonomy for Palestinians under occupation — blamed Mr. Sadat for capitulating to the Americans and Israelis, thus putting no effective barriers in the way of Jewish settlements which have changed the face of the West Bank and Gaza. The lack of U.S. restraint on Israel, encouraged by Camp David's flexible terms, allowed Israel to take liberties with a divided Arab World.

He also cited the 1981 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the 1985 air strike against the Pales-

Death and politics in the Punjab

By C.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India — Vijay Kumar sat amid the bolts of cloth in the narrow shop inherited from his father and told of the horror that struck on the Hindu holiday of Diwali.

"My father was sitting at home worshipping. Two Sikh youths climbed over the wall and shot him dead. I don't know why," Kumar said.

Hindu cloth merchant Ranchi Kumar was killed on Oct. 22 in the town of Chollasahab, south of this Sikh holy city in one of Punjab state's most violent districts. He was one of a dozen people, Sikhs and Hindus, killed in the town of 10,000 in two years. More than 900 people have died this year in Punjab in attacks blamed on Sikh radicals fighting for a separate nation for their minority religion in northern India.

In that time, police have killed more than 320 men they branded as Sikh terrorists.

Last May, India's central government removed the elected government of the Sikh political party Akali Dal from power and took over running the state in an effort to halt the violence.

Sull, the killing goes on, and many look at the seemingly endless violence and share the bewilderment of 25-year-old Vijay Kumar at the death of his father.

Punjab is India's richest farm state, supplying wheat, rice and other crops to the country's 780 million people. Industrious Sikh farmers and wily Hindu traders give it a per capita income of

4,416 rupees (\$339) — compared to 2,596 rupees (\$200) for the country overall.

Even these days, Punjab's roads are clogged with trucks and ox carts piled high with sugar cane from the harvest, and tractors plow the fields readying the ground for wheat.

The markets in Amritsar and other towns are crowded. But the markets close early, buses do not run at night, and even the popular Punjab sweets shops are deserted by mid-evening.

India's government bans the foreign tourists who used to visit the Sikh's Golden Temple in Amritsar. It was an army raid on the Golden Temple to dislodge radicals that led the revenge slaying of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards, and in turn to anti-Sikh riots in New Delhi.

Today, the Congress Party headed by Mrs. Gandhi's son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi, is holding rallies throughout Punjab. The opposition Sikh party Akali Dal is trying to recover from internal splits, and there is talk of a possible state election.

But the people talk less of politics — unless they are assessing blame — than they do of the chaos and fear in Punjab.

In Chollasahab, Sikh shopkeeper Kundan Singh said: "People do not come from the villages. Every business is hurt. It's down 50 per cent. Nobody comes after 5 p.m. The shops used to be open until 10."

Dr. H.L. Passi, a physician at the government hospital in

Amritsar, said there is a "fear psychosis" among Hindus and Sikhs.

Both are afraid of Sikh militants, and many Sikhs also fear police who are taking a tougher stand against the militants.

Sikhs charge that police kill young men in "fake encounters" aimed at eliminating suspects without trial. Police deny this but admit they are hampered because no one is willing to testify in the climate of fright.

In Amritsar, Sikh widow Kulwant Kaur tearfully recounted how fear led to the death of her husband, Sardar Singh, a dealer in construction equipment.

Singh fled after his motor scooter hit another scooter, knocking a woman passenger to the ground. Although she wasn't seriously hurt, the other driver shouted, "A Sikh has killed my grandmother."

The 42-year-old Sikh was chased by police. In the tussle that ensued, a policeman was killed with his own gun. Finally Singh was shot to death, and police said he was a "terrorist" armed with a .32 caliber pistol.

Later, an inquiry demanded by Singh's neighbours — Sikh and Hindu — found he had no gun, nor any connection with Sikh militants.

"He was afraid because he was a Sikh," his widow said. "The government is fully responsible for the death of my husband."

Vijay Kumar, son of the slain Hindu merchant in Chollasahab, also blames Punjab's violence more on the government than on the Sikhs. "The government is

responsible. It is not able to control things," he said.

Sikh politicians say the ruling Congress Party gave encouragement to Sikh radicals in the early 1980s to try to split the Akali Dal, the Sikh political party.

Many Sikhs also say police exaggerate the Punjab problem, listing those killed in ordinary crimes as victims of Sikh terrorism. Punjab always was violent, known for land disputes, vengeance murders and quick-tempered Sikhs whose religion praises "warrior-saints."

Both sides bemoan the increasing division between Sikhs and Hindus. The bond was once such that often one son in a large Hindu family would be raised as a Sikh, since the sect was seen as the protector of Hindus against Muslims in the religious turmoil of India.

Sikhism was founded about 500 years ago as a middle ground between the two perpetually warring faiths, taking its belief in a single God from Islam but other practices from Hinduism.

Sikhs comprise only 2 per cent of India's people, who are 80 per cent Hindu. But in Punjab, Sikhs are a slight majority among the 17 million population.

In the northern state, many Hindus still are fond of saying, "the Sikhs and the Hindus are one."

The Sikhs, however, see themselves as separate. "We are Indians; but we are Sikhs. We must get political identity," says Narinderjit Singh, the spokesman for the Golden Temple, the Sikh's holiest shrine.

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Tom Page laying to rest the ghosts of Vietnam

By Claudia Rader
Reuters

HARRIETSHAM, England — Tim Page, a British photographer known as "The Crazy Kid" of the press corps covering the Vietnam war, is finally laying to rest the ghosts of the 10-year conflict that defined and nearly destroyed his life.

Eighteen years after Page was nearly blown to pieces by a massive mine as he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon, he spoke quietly of the smoke and gunfire in the rice paddies and the long, desperate years of recovery.

"It was living life on the edge, we were all caught up in the magic of it. I fell in at the deep end and had to swim to survive," he said from his quiet cottage in the pastures of southeast England.

He is at work on his autobiography and has just published the dream he clutched at for a decade after he was evacuated from the battlefield — "Vietnam, Ten Years After," a beautiful, haunting photographic portrait of a landscape and a people emerging, like Page, from the ravages of war.

"It's my recovery from myself. I had all this stuff to exorcise," he said, smoke curling from his hand-rolled cigarette.

Everywhere in his home are mementos, fragments of the war that raged for 10,000 days until April 1975, leaving millions dead. The plaque on the cottage reads LZ-1, a salute to the landing zones where Huey helicop-

ters, the workhorses of the U.S. war effort, rose and descended, bringing in supplies and taking out the dead and wounded.

The ashtrays are made from upright artillery shells, the walls decorated with old press passes. The placid ginger cat is called Phoung — after a Daoist peace island in the Mekong River where Page and his friends used to go to escape the madness.

Page, 43, still has the beaten-up Pentax camera given to him by his first news editors when he arrived in Laos, fresh off the hippie trail across Europe and Asia, in 1965.

Shortly after, a coup broke out in Laos and Page was the only Western photographer there. The pictures won him some quick cash and a staff job in Vietnam with an American news agency. He was 19.

In the three years he spent based in Saigon, Page was wounded in action five times, saw friends die around him and survived in a haze of dope and the high of the battlefield.

He was labelled the "Crazy Kid" of the Vietnam press corps and was later the model for the crazed photographer hopper in Francis Ford Coppola's harrowing Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now".

He still wears the Rolex wristwatch that froze at 14:02 on April 19, 1969 — "The day I was killed," Page says — when he stepped out of a helicopter near Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh city) into the blast of a 350-lb (160-kg)



Tom Page

anti-tank mine and was given 20 minutes to live.

Doctors took a two-inch piece of shrapnel from his head, removed a quarter of his brain and as Page puts it, filled the hole in with epoxy resin.

Page's left arm still hangs crookedly and he limps. He says he won't have children because his repeated exposure to the highly toxic defoliant Agent Orange would "make them look like a cross between a spider and someone's science experiment."

He spent the next 10 years stumbling through Europe and the United States and a failed marriage. On one rock-bottom day in Rome, he loaded a pistol, spun the chamber and pulled the trigger. He drew a blank.

"I spent those years corkscrewing into my problems, black-listed as a crazy junkie. It took me until the end of the 70s to start parting the smokescreen," he said.

In 1980, Page returned to Vietnam for The Observer newspaper's magazine. "Going back threw a switch. It finally let the whole thing sink just low enough beneath me," he said.

He published a book called "Nam" and freelanced for travel magazines, shooting everything from British country life to sports events.

In 1985, as Vietnam celebrated the 10th anniversary of its unification, Page was back, photographing for the new book, travelling around the country, renewing Vietnamese contacts and revisiting old haunts.

"I don't think you can ever go to war and completely exorcise it," he said. "But now I feel I could go back and treat it as a strictly commercial venture."

Page married again last June and describes himself as a Buddhist and an ecologist. He says he is serene and loves photographing the changing light of the pastures outside his home.

He is writing his autobiography, "Page after Page", by fountainpen in thick legal binders. A show of his photographs opens in London this week. But namstagia, as Page calls it, runs deep.

"I miss the camaraderie, the feeling of being on the cutting edge... we are creatures of what happened in Vietnam. Vietnam made, bent and reshaped the rules."

"I'd like to go back just for a spasm. I'm desperate to go on the road, to be a free spirit again," he said.



An Arab couple under way with their livestock. The proud Arabs of the Negev Desert are standing up to the might of Zionists in a fight for their ancestral land.

Bedouins continue to defy Israeli rulers

By Laszlo Trankovits

BÉERSHEBA (DPA) — The mighty force arrived at dawn, in jeeps and army trucks and with powerful bulldozers. Almost 500 Israeli soldiers and police combed the tiny Negev desert village of Lagiya under the rapidly rising, scorching sun.

They searched every house — in vain — for weapons and locked some families in. "It was as though war has broken out," Suleyman Al Nassasra said bitterly.

"The dark-skinned men in flowing robes, some with tears in their eyes, looked on silently as the destruction was carried out on the edge of the village. In the background veiled women stood motionless watching the military operation."

The target of the operation was a group of 2,000 olive trees. They were uprooted and carried away in the trucks.

Four hours later it was all over. What had once been 50,000 square metres of flourishing olive

trees now resembled a crater-pocked lunar landscape.

This recent episode put the spotlight briefly on a "painful conflict", as Amos Gilboa, the Israeli prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, put it.

Despite a major effort, Israel has yet to succeed in persuading the majority of the proud and willful Bedouins to settle down and integrate into the country's society.

On repeated occasions, Israeli law and the traditions of this nomadic people have clashed irreconcilably.

The hostility of the Bedouins appears to be growing.

"I hate the Zionists. I am more radical than (right-extremist Israeli MP) Kahane," said Sheikh Darsvish Al Nassasra, head of the Nassasra clan in a newspaper interview.

"We nurtured those trees for six years, now everything has been destroyed," Yunis Al Nassasra complained.

The problem, from the Israeli point of view, was that the plant-

ing of the trees was illegal. "They have stolen state land," stressed police officer. The authorities had for years been asking the Nassasra clan to cultivate only their own fields.

The clan, whose members are among the 32,000 — of a total of 61,000 — Negev Bedouins who have agreed to give up their nomadic life, objected to these regulations. However, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected their pleas.

The Bedouins, pointing out that they have since time immemorial run things their own way in the Negev, refuse to accept this situation.

For many reasons, including fear of offices and taxes, they never registered their land during the centuries of Turkish rule.

"This is the land of our fathers," Sheikh Al Nassasra maintains. "I had been ready to compromise, but now it is a matter of honour, and I will not yield."

The Bedouins claim a total of

60,000 hectares of Negev land as theirs. Israel has conceded much less than a tenth of this.

"When they come to us we give them land to cultivate," Eli Babai of the Israeli Land Office assured. "But they don't come and instead simply say that it is their land."

The Bedouins insist that the law of the desert should prevail, the law of established rights. Tribal laws and tradition, the famous hospitality as well as blood feud are still very much a part of Bedouin life.

Most of them still travel by camel accompanied by herds of goats and sheep — believed to now total some 250,000 — through the Negev desert and set up their tents wherever they want.

But nowadays empty desert areas are few and far between in the Negev, since the military seeking room for manoeuvres, landing strips and barracks have joined settlers and environmentalists in demanding land.

Injecting growth into the livestock market

Amid growing concern about the use of steroid-based products in cattle, the race is on to find "safe" drugs to promote growth. Peter Marsh reports on new techniques to produce faster-growing animals with leaner meat.

LONDON — The immune system — the complex bodily mechanism used by animals to ward off disease — may soon come into play in a set of novel techniques to produce leaner, faster-growing pigs and cattle. In future, these animals may be encouraged to develop into "super-breeds" as a result of injections of chemicals acting similarly to the vaccines used to immunise against illness.

The immunological methods promise to become important in the quest to find safer chemicals to promote growth in animals. Sales of such products are likely to run to hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars a year in the 1990s.

Work in this area has come to the forefront because of widespread concern about potential health problems caused by steroid-based growth products, which have been used for years to fatten beef cattle, particularly in the U.S. These steroids are not broken down in the metabolic reactions inside the animal. The chemicals remain in its body and are later transferred to the stomach of a person, sometimes, it is feared, with unpleasant consequences.

A European Community ban on steroids, which is due to come into force in January, has helped to trigger interest in replacement techniques.

Most of the work so far in novel animal-growth products has centred on producing, by genetic engineering, hormones such as somatotropin which animals secrete naturally to aid their metabolic processes.

Regular injections of somatotropin could, so researchers envisage, either speed up growth or encourage an animal to produce more milk. Administering extra quantities of these hormones to animals would not be unsafe for

humans because the substances are broken down in the creatures' stomach before slaughtering takes place.

The new, immunity-based approach takes a different tack. It works by tricking the immune system in animals not so much to encourage growth processes as to stop others which inhibit growth.

At the heart of this idea are the antibodies, or highly specific proteins, which the body's immune system routinely produces to kill invading antigens or foreign organic materials. These antigens include the viruses that cause disease.

Under some circumstances, antibodies can be stimulated via a vaccination to interfere with the metabolic machinery of cells. In particular, they can act in such a way that production of particular hormones which reduce growth is slowed down. One such anti-growth hormone — which normally works as a kind of brake to ensure that animals do not develop into giants — is called somatostatin.

With the inhibitory factor severely restrained, it follows that the animal develops more quickly — in much the same way as it would if given steroids or somatotropin-like hormones.

There is, however, a great advantage in that, once given a stock of the appropriate antibodies, the hormone such as somatostatin is "turned off" on a semi-permanent basis.

Although "top-ups" of the antibodies would be needed — in much the same way as a person has to receive booster injections now and again to ward off an illness like diphtheria or measles — the extra doses would be required far less regularly than the fresh shots required in the simple administering of growth hormones.

Among the companies working in the area of immunity-based growth methods is Ciba-Geigy, the Swiss pharmaceuticals giant, which is conducting research in collaboration with Genentech, a leading U.S. biotechnology company.

Another company investigating the immunological technique is International Minerals and Chemicals, a U.S. concern which is already well on the way towards turning out growth products based on the somatotropin concept. Bill Summers, new-products director at IMC's Pittman-Moore animal-health subsidiary, which has recently built a \$50 million facility to turn out growth hormones for pigs, says the immune technique is "an excellent idea" although it is still some years from commercialisation.

A variation on the immunological approach — and one which works with a startling directness — has come from the Hannah Research Institute in Scotland, which is financed by the U.K. government's Agriculture and Food Research Council.

Here scientists have injected rats with monoclonal (very pure) antibodies which operate by attacking certain types of fat cells, destroying them in exactly the way that they would mop up invading viruses. The technique has proved effective in turning out rats with particularly lean meat, something that could be promising commercially if applied to livestock.

The method, similar in concept to ideas that scientists have about destroying, with monoclonal antibodies, malignant cells in patients suffering from cancer, has similarities to the other immune-based growth methods — though it has a certain extra elegance in not involving the operation of hormones.

The work at the Hannah institute has won the financial support of the British Technology Group, the U.K. government's technolo-

gy-transfer arm. This is funding the institute — together with three other U.K. academic establishments which are also working on the concept — with £250,000 to bring its development work nearer the commercial stage.

Peter Bailey, director of the group's pharmaceuticals division, says the research has "attracted tremendous interest" from companies which are interested in taking up the technique under licence.

In due course, it is thought that companies planning to turn out growth products based on somatotropin may find the immunological methods a better long-term bet. Companies in this category include major U.S. chemicals companies such as American Cyanamid, Upjohn, Eli Lilly and Monsanto, all of which plan to introduce over the next few years genetically-engineered cattle somatotropin, predominantly for boosting milk production.

Scientists also believe that immunity methods along similar lines to those on which the Hannah researchers in Scotland are working could have a major application in the area of human medicine, in treating people suffering from obesity.

It is thought that, if antibodies could be found of a certain specificity and operation that they "mopped up" the fat cells in human tissue, an overweight individual given a dose of chemicals via a vaccination might be automatically helped towards a leaner, fitter future.

It is likely, however, to be many years before any such medications are available. The safety consequences of such an immunological procedure would have to be investigated at great length to ensure that reducing the fat cells in this way did not at the same time lead to changes in other aspects of the body's development that could have harmful effects — Financial Times feature.

Indian astrologers use computers to help arrange 'ideal' marriages

By Prakash Chandra
National Geographic

NEW DELHI, India — India's astrologers are gazing deep into their computer printouts these days to create marriages made in heaven.

Arranging marriages provided a meagre living for astrologers — called "pandits" here — until personal computers came into the picture.

For example, 50-year-old Pan Bhaiji Tanurik of Meerut, a city about 50 miles northeast of New Delhi, earned barely 50 rupees (\$4) a month before he bought a computer. Now his computer horoscopes earn him almost 10,000 rupees (\$800) a month. In a red-painted room in his house, he keeps a human skull and other instruments of the arts required to destroy his clients' enemies with black magic.

His computer sits in a more cheerful room, under a ceiling fan. All the computer needs is the date, time, and birthplace of a client. The software does the rest.

Both sets of parents who have agreed on a prospective husband or wife for one of their children go to such pandits to have both children's horoscopes cast. In a few minutes, the pandit can tell the parents whether the stars and planets are in the right relationships for a successful marriage.

If the stars are propitious, boy meets girl. If the pair approve of each other, which they almost always do, the wedding date is fixed — again according to the computer's recommendation.

Even well-educated Indians rely on computerised horoscopes for the serious business of finding a bride or groom. Dr. Anand Mohan went to a computer fore-

caster to check on the prospective bride of his son Sanjeev, 24, who is studying to be a doctor.

"The computer astrologer's predictions are perfect," Mohan says. "We know the exact date on which they should be engaged." Fittingly, the bride-to-be, Niti Agarwal, 22, is a computer programmer.

Computerised horoscope services are so profitable that data-processing entrepreneurs have entered the field. Horoscope companies are springing up all over India. One such company is Foresight Ltd. Its motto: "Only God knows better."

Foresight sells the horoscope software for prices starting at \$800. Larger packages, which can include the capacity to make annual predictions, cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

These kits enable wealthier customers to match horoscopes of

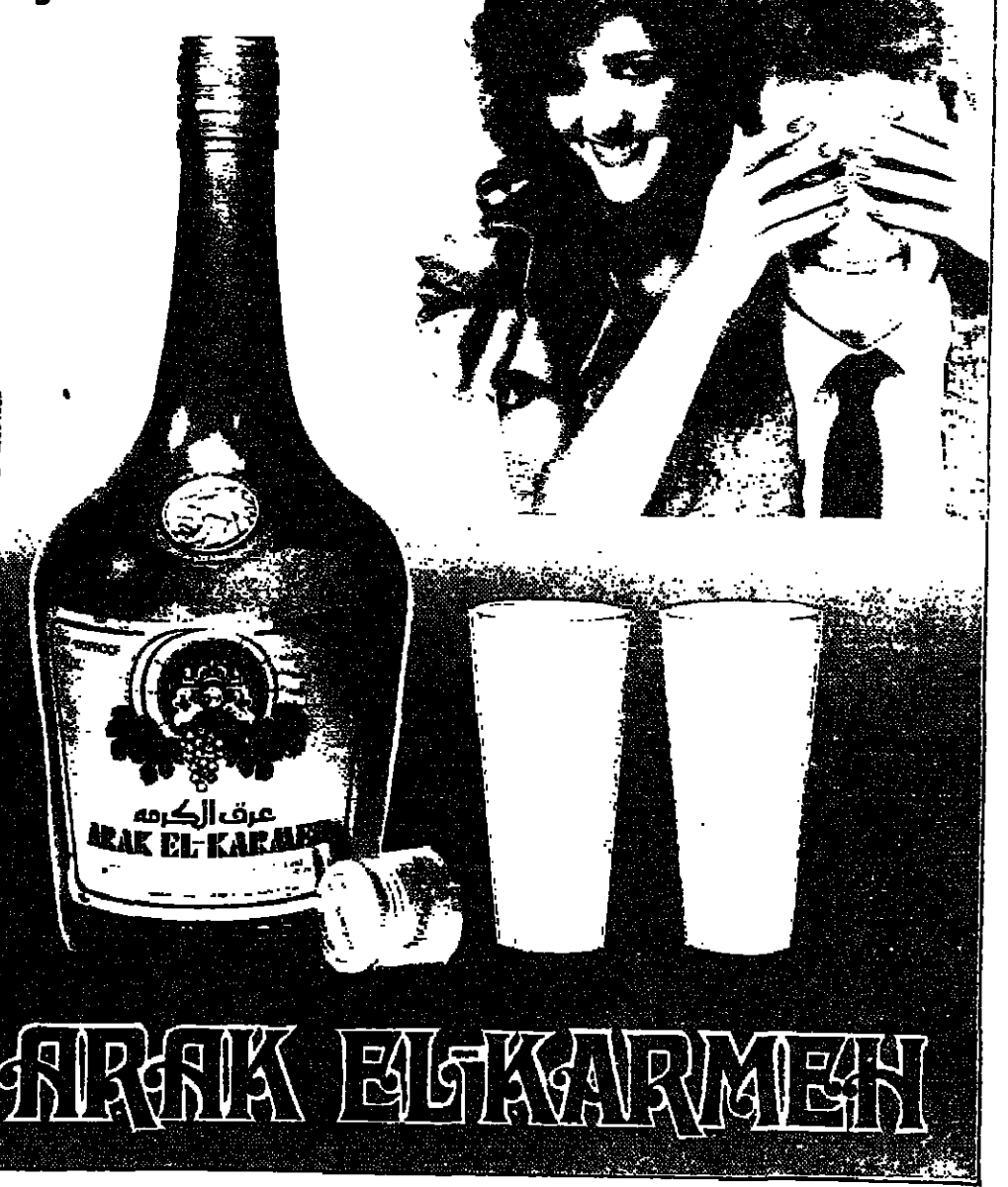
prospective marriage partners on their own, but the kits are far beyond the means of most Indians. So Foresight also provides its own astrological services.

"My firm charges \$20 for an exhaustive horoscope, including all the details about a boy or girl for the parents of the other partner," says Foresight Manager Sumant Tagra.

India's horoscope aren't just for people. One person requested the horoscope of the United States, and provided the relevant data: date of birth, July 4, 1776; time, 2:13 a.m.; place, Philadelphia.

Foresight recently received about 150 requests for the prospects of embattled Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The astral printouts foresaw tough times for him between April 1987 and August 1988. So far the predictions have been accurate.

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ARAK EL-KARMEN

IOC chief warns countries against boycott of Olympics

GENEVA (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch will this week call on his executive board to punish states that boycott the Olympic Games by banning them from future competition.

Samaranch told Reuters he would submit his proposal to the Lausanne-based IOC's 12-member executive board at a meeting on Thursday.

He made his view clear as North Korea and South Korea headed for a showdown in their dispute over the summer Olympics, set to open in nine months.

North Korea has threatened to call for a Communist-Bloc boycott unless it is accepted as a co-host of the 1988 Olympics.

Samaranch said that if any country accepted an IOC invitation to Seoul but then stayed away, "this national Olympic committee must be punished."

The IOC, the games' governing body, has set January 17 as the deadline for accepting a record 167 invitations to Seoul.

More than 90 countries, including most in the West, have accepted but no communist state has replied. If the executive board endorses the proposal it will be put to the full 91-member IOC for final approval in February.

Samaranch said the ban would cover the following Summer Olympics. The next games after Seoul are set for 1992 in Samaranch's home town, Barcelona in Spain.

He said no consideration should be given to the athletic strength or importance of a boycotting state. Any boycotting nation should be punished and banned.

"The Soviet Union, as the United States, has the right, the full right, to accept or not to accept the invitation," he said. "You can accept or not accept, but if you accept, it is compulsory to take part in the games."

The United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980 in protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. Moscow led a 16-nation boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Games, citing security concern.

Samaranch said North Korea was missing the point of his "historic" offer.

"The importance is they have received an unprecedented, symbolic sharing of the games — not how many events they stage," he said.

South Korea, separated from the north by a heavily guarded border, has invested \$3 billion and six years' hard work in making the staging of the games a showcase for Asian development and know-how.

Samaranch said it was unfair to any organising country to have a boycott threat overshadowing preparations.

The IOC awarded the Olympics to Seoul in 1981. In 1985, North Korea demanded to be regarded as co-host, saying the games should belong to all Koreans.

Samaranch has mediated in four rounds of talks between the two sides and helped forge an unprecedented deal last July in which Seoul offered to hand over a few events to Pyongyang.

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Sudden tie maintains world chess deadlock

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — The 21st game of the World Chess Championship between titleholder Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov was agreed drawn in a complex position after 28 moves on Monday.

The result kept the scores tied at 10½ points in the 24-game match, with three wins and 15 draws for each of the Soviet players.

Kasparov, 24, has the weight advantage of retaining the crown in the event of a 12-12 deadlock.

Karpov, 36, considered his rival's offer to split the point for more than 10 minutes before finally accepting.

Chess experts were puzzled by Kasparov's decision to try to force a draw by a perpetual repetition of moves. If the same position occurs three times with the same person to move, the game may be claimed drawn.

Kasparov, who had a rook for Karpov's knight and pawn, was widely considered to be in a good position to press for a win.

Icelandic grandmaster Helgi Olafsson said: "Kasparov may come to regret this later. I don't know if he was winning, but he was clearly better."

English international master Mark Hebden called the sudden

result pathetic and also believed that Kasparov sacrificed a chance for virtually clinching the match.

Siyavush Eganov, the head of Kasparov's delegation, was more philosophical.

"Perhaps Kasparov saw something everyone missed. Tell me, is it possible or not?" Eganov asked reporters.

It seemed clear that Kasparov intended to use his advantage of keeping the title in the event of a final tie and would take no risk.

The end of the game saw another instance of what may be a thaw in the stormy personal relations between the world's two top players.

When the result had been agreed, Kasparov and Karpov began to analyse and discuss the position amicably for over five minutes.

This standard chess formality had been lacking between the "two K's" since their 1984 match, but has become a regular occurrence in the latter stages in Seville.

The next game, with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces, is scheduled for Wednesday at 4.30 p.m. (1530 GMT).

Both players still have one time-out remaining for the final three games, which they may use at their discretion to postpone play.

Zurbriggen, Walliser back on ski track

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Defending World Cup overall champions Pirmin Zurbriggen and Maria Walliser had some good times in France after a lost weekend in Italy.

After slow starts in the season opening races in Italy, their good clockings on the slopes in downhill races this past weekend not only put them back in the overall standings scoreboard, but also sparked their Swiss team that had been sagging after dominating the ski season last year.

When it came to the French resort in the Haute Savoie, the Swiss had zero victories from five races in Italy.

When it left, it had three victories out of the three races in France.

Actually four — one counted twice when Daniel Mahrer had to repeat his downhill victory. After being fogged out Sunday, when the race was stopped after 17 racers with him leading, he came back Monday in cold, crisp and sunny weather to do it again. He blitzed down the 3,500-metre Oreiller-Killy course in 1 minute, 59.52 seconds to edge Zurbriggen in one of the tightest World Cup downhill races.

"It's difficult to win two times in a row in completely different conditions," Mahrer said. "It wasn't bad to be leading when

they stopped the race Sunday. It was the best of motivations for me," he said.

Zurbriggen was beaten by just three hundredths of a second while Italy's Michael Mair was just a hundredth behind Zurbriggen.

It wasn't the first time that Zurbriggen has been involved in close finishes. "It was in Kranjska Gora (Yugoslavia) in 1985. I lost by one-hundredth of a second in a giant slalom," Zurbriggen said.

Thomas Burgler, another Swiss, beat him there.

With his second, Zurbriggen moves into a challenging position for the overall World Cup men's lead. He won last year and in 1984 but only had a seventh in the first two races in Italy.

His 29 points puts him behind Italy's Alberto Tomba, who piled up 50 points with two victories in Italy while the Swiss were getting their skis warmed up.

Zurbriggen and Mahrer are second and third behind Tomba with the men's troops heading to Italy for another downhill and a giant slalom.

The Swiss women go home with a series of four different events in Leukerbad. They look to continue their Blitz when they took six of the top ten places in one race and six of the top 17 in another in France.

Australian surfer repeats triumph in Triple Crown

HONOLULU (AP) — Australia's Gary Elkerton notched a second straight victory Monday in the prestigious Triple Crown of surfing at Sunset Beach on the north shore of Oahu, winning the fourth annual Billabong Pro meet.

Elkerton, 23, who two weeks ago won the 13th World Cup of surfing, also at Sunset Beach, is the leader going into the third

and final event in the Triple Crown, the Marui Pipeline Masters scheduled for Dec. 12, surf permitting.

Elkerton collected \$5,000 for his Billabong victory to add to the \$10,000 and a jeep he collected in the World Cup Nov. 27. His two victories gave him at least \$2,000 of the Triple Crown's \$5,000 title prize.

Bayer opt for all-out defence against Dutch fans

LEVERKUSEN, West Germany (R) — Bayer Leverkusen have opted for all-out defence for Wednesday's European Football Union (UEFA) cup tie with Feyenoord, but the tactics are aimed at controlling visiting Dutch fans rather than the away team.

The club said an unprecedented 1,000 security officials would be on duty for the game, expected to attract a capacity 22,000-crowd at Leverkusen's tiny Ulrich-Haberland stadium.

Bayer have some reason for their alarm as Feyenoord fans went on the rampage after a UEFA cup match in Moenchengladbach last year. About 70 people were arrested.

Leverkusen could have their problems with the Dutch on the pitch too even though they defend a more than useful 2-2 draw from the away leg and have not lost any of their previous nine matches in European competition.

With their new star Brazilian striker Tita ineligible and six regular first-teamers injured, Bayer will have to field a makeshift side.

Flamengo dances its way to the top

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Flamengo did not play brilliantly but was well satisfied with the 1-1 tie against Internacional in the opening game of the national soccer championship finals Sunday in Porto Alegre.

The teams now go to Rio for the deciding game next Sunday. Some 150,000 fans are expected to attend the final on Flamengo's home field in Maracana Stadium, the world's largest.

There can be no tie in the final game. In a last-minute change in the regulations, Flamengo and Internacional agreed that if the score is tied at the end of regulation time a 30-minute overtime will be played. If the tie persists, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks.

The champion will win an unprecedented fourth national title. Internacional was national champion in 1975, 1976 and 1979, while Flamengo won the title in 1980, 1982 and 1983.

The opening game was dull and disappointing for the 65,000 fans that packed Beira-Rio Stadium in the far southern city of Porto Alegre.

Flamengo, which had played inspired soccer during its electrifying semifinal series with Atletico Mineiro, abandoned its offensive style and fell back on defence, preoccupied with not losing.

Internacional, known more for its tough, scrappy defence than its offensive firepower, was virtually obliged to win its home game but had trouble penetrating the Flamengo defensive blockade.

Flamengo was jeopardised by a so-so performance by veteran star Zico, who commanded the team's victories in the semifinals.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Everton, Rangers clash for Dubai trophy

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Everton, the First Division soccer club from Merseyside, England, and Glasgow Rangers, the Premier Division club from Glasgow, Scotland are all set to clash for the glittering Champions Club Trophy and a 10,000-sterling (\$16,000) winner's bonus. The teams practised at the Al-Maktoum Stadium Monday and were gearing up for the showdown which is to be beamed live in many parts of the world. The kickoff at Al-Maktoum stadium began last night at 8:00 p.m. (1600 GMT). The much-awaited soccer spectacle, billed as the unofficial British championship match, has generated lots of enthusiasm here, and both the managers have promised to field a full-strength side. Both the teams arrived Sunday night on the same flight from London. Everton boss Colin Harvey and player-manager Graeme Souness have named the full strength teams in a bid to gain the trophy, which was made in West Germany. And the winner will hold on to the trophy for 12 months and return it to Dubai for next year's annual battle.

Dolphins land Jets

MIAMI (AP) — Dan Marino, bouncing back from one of the worst performances of his career, passed for 293 yards and one touchdown and ran for another score, leading the Miami Dolphins to a 37-27 victory over the New York Jets Monday night. Rookie Troy Stradford rushed for 120 yards and three touchdowns. The victory, before a crowd of 58,879 at Joe Robbie Stadium, rekindled Miami's AFC East title hopes and lifted the Dolphins, 6-6, into second place with the Jets and Buffalo Bills. The Indianapolis Colts, 7-5, lead the division. Marino completed 29 of 40 passes and ran five yards for his first touchdowns in four years after New York had cut a 27-point Miami lead to 30-21 early in the fourth quarter. Dan Johnson's 2-yard touchdown reception and the first of Stradford's three 1-yard touchdown runs staked Miami to a 14-0 first-quarter lead. The rookie from Boston College scored twice in the second quarter and the Dolphins led 27-0 at halftime. After limiting the Jets to 43 net yards in the first half, though, the Dolphins defence — ranked 27th in the NFL — wilted in the third quarter. Ken O'Brien threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Al Toon and backup quarterback Pat Ryan ran eight yards for a TD on a fake field goal. The Jets drew within nine points with 14:53 to go on Johnny Hector's 14-yard run that capped a five-play, 60-yard drive following a Miami punt.

Pele hopes for 1994 World Cup in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Pele, the retired Brazilian soccer star, said in an interview published Monday that he preferred having the 1994 World Cup held in Latin America's largest country. The 47-year-old Pele told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, which interviewed him in London, "like any Brazilian, I personally believe it would be best if the World Cup were held in Brazil." He said he had been misinterpreted in the past when the local press quoted him as saying the World Cup should be held in the United States. Last August he was quoted as saying "soccer needs something new and the United States represents that. Brazil's precarious economic situation does not give the country the necessary conditions to host the World Cup."

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Edwin Freer Overseas Liaison Officer at the British Council on Wednesday December 9th at 7.30 p.m.

Interviews on Thursday, December 10th from 3.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

For further information and interview appointments contact:

The British Council, telephone: 636147 and ask for Miss Asma Shihabi

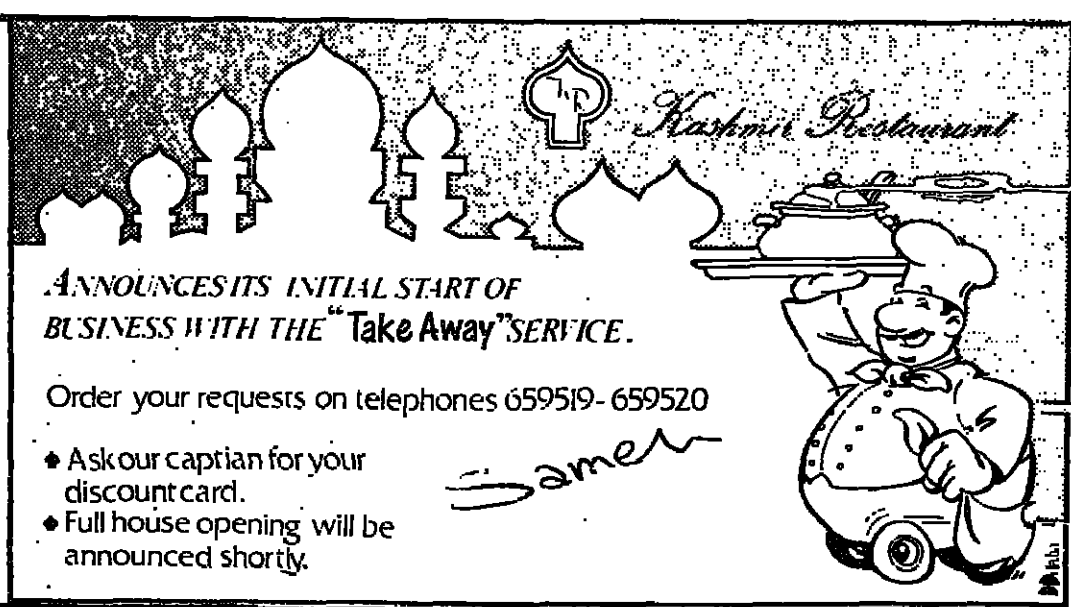
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(Arabic)

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Horoscope not received

Commuter jet crash kills 44 in southern California

SAN FRANCISCO (R)—A four-engine commuter jet crashed about 320 kilometres south of San Francisco on Monday, and all 44 passengers and crew were feared killed, an airline spokesman said.

Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) Flight 1771, which left Los Angeles at 6:30 p.m. est (1030 GMT) on a flight to San Francisco, disappeared from radar screens and lost radio contact with radio controllers in the vicinity of Paso Robles, a small community midway between the two cities.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said it had an unconfirmed report that the pilot reported gunshots in the cabin shortly before the crash.

Mike Doering, a spokesman at PSA corporate headquarters in San Diego, said the plane carried 39 passengers and a crew of five. "There are no reported survivors and no indication as to the cause of the crash," he said.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman in Los Angeles said the bureau's disaster squad had been called in to investigate the crash because of the report the pilot had radioed hearing gunshots in the passenger compartment.

"The squad will investigate specifically whether the crash was caused by criminal activity,"

spokesman Fred Reagan said. Officials said the plane crashed in hilly terrain about 18 kilometres west of the small community of Templeton and 22 kilometres south of Paso Robles.

Eyewitnesses said the craft appeared to nosedive just before it struck the ground and scattered in pieces across the countryside. "There was not even any significant parts of bodies," said Jack Strauss, one of the first to reach the scene. "It was just scattered everywhere."

A spokesman for the California Highway Patrol flew over the wreckage shortly after the crash and reported the plane had shattered into "itty bitty pieces." Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Fred Farar said in Washington the aircraft was flying at 22,000 feet (6700 metres) when it disappeared from radar screens.

The plane was a British-made BAE 146. Doering said it was the second fatal crash in the airline's 39-year history.

PSA was recently taken over by USAIR and serves 29 cities in six Western states and Mexico.

Ershad to free detained opponents soon

DHAKA (R)—Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, seeking reconciliation with opponents trying to topple him, said he would end a state of emergency and free his detained rivals soon.

He made the pledge on Monday, a day after he dissolved parliament to pave the way for fresh elections.

Gen. Ershad declared a state of emergency Nov. 27 to thwart a month-long opposition campaign aimed at forcing his resignation. "The emergency will not stay a minute longer than necessary," Gen. Ershad told a meeting of

Bangladesh's newspaper editors on Monday night.

He said he would soon release the main opposition leaders, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, from house arrest.

"I hope the steps I have taken will create an atmosphere where we all can bury our acrimony and work towards establishing democracy," he said.

Gen. Ershad has already freed 13 detained politicians in order to create conditions for talks with the opposition. Home (interior) Minister Abdul Matin said.

Paper reports war crimes documents missing from U.N.

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 400 files of the United Nations War Crimes Commission are missing from the archives of the U.N. Headquarters, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

Of the 8,100 recently unsealed files, 433 have disappeared, the U.N. archives director, Alf Erlandsson, told the newspaper.

Israeli officials, involved with the archives on a daily basis since war crimes allegations against former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim surfaced last year, reportedly were stunned by the news.

Some of the records, particularly on the reel of microfilm containing Yugoslavia's Waldheim file, were missing in blocks of up to six consecutive documents, the Post said.

"It's very, very difficult to give any real explanation," said Mr. Erlandsson, who suggested the material must have disappeared when the records were filed in the late 1940s.

Mr. Erlandsson told the newspaper officials first learned files were missing in the summer of 1986 when they began microfilm-

ing the aging records. The U.N. War Crimes Commission compiled files after World War II of both facts and allegations of war crimes. They were unsealed earlier this fall, made available to government agencies that ask to see them.

Meanwhile, Austria asked the U.S. government Monday for clarification of its reasons for barring Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States, a diplomatic source said.

Austria specifically wished to know whether Dr. Waldheim was being barred because of charges that he took an active role in World War II persecutions or merely because he was in the vicinity of such activities, the source said.

Austrian Ambassador Friedrich Hoess gave a note to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Bodle Jr. calling attention to contradictory U.S. versions of the action, said the informant, who spoke on condition of being identified only as a source close to the Austrian embassy.

Nicaragua rejects rebel truce proposal

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—President Daniel Ortega said Monday a year-end holiday ceasefire was "impossible" because the U.S.-supported contra rebels refused to accept an earlier call to lay down their arms.

"We had a bad experience with a truce," Mr. Ortega said, referring to a 30-day ceasefire the Sandinista government unilaterally declared on Oct. 5.

"They (the rebels) mounted strong attacks against towns and didn't stop murdering during those 30 days. Under these conditions it is impossible to accept a new truce," he said.

At the request of Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the contras on Monday declared a 36-hour unilateral truce for celebrations of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.

There was no immediate word on whether fighting had stopped after the ceasefire took effect at 1800 GMT Monday.

While addressing a world leaders conference Monday, Mr. Ortega backed down from an earlier position and said future ceasefire talks could be held in the region.

Last week, indirect talks between the government and the rebels were held in the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean nation, because Mr. Ortega had said it would violate the spirit of the regional peace plan adopted on Aug. 7 to hold the negotiations in another Central American country.

There was no immediate response by his office or the Defence Ministry to the contra ceasefire announced in Miami, Florida, by rebel leader Adolfo Calero, one of six members of the directorate of the contra umbrella organisation called the Nicaraguan Resistance.

American shot down, captured

A U.S. citizen flying a small plane was shot down Sunday by Nicaraguan anti-aircraft fire and captured in the south east part of the country, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement distributed early Tuesday that the captured man was identified as James Jordan Denny, in his 50s, from the state of Illinois, no hometown was given.

According to the statement, Denny was flying a Cessna 172 "when he violated Nicaraguan airspace and was shot down by anti-aircraft fire" near San Juan Del Norte, 320 kilometres south east of Managua in Yelapa province, near the border with Costa Rica.

Raisa, Nancy reportedly waging cold war

WASHINGTON (Agencies)—Raisa Gorbachev, resplendent in a silver fox fur coat, flew into Washington amid signs that she and Nancy Reagan were waging a cold war just as relations between their superpower husbands were warming.

Nancy and Raisa will join their spouses at several official events during the summit, including White House arrival and departure ceremonies, two state dinners and viewing the signing of the treaty eliminating all medium and shorter-range nuclear weapons.

But the two first ladies have only one private meeting scheduled—a tour of the White House private quarters—and this has fuelled speculation in symbol-sensitive Washington that Mrs. Reagan is miffed at her Russian counterpart.

One private meeting is the minimum required by protocol. Adding to the speculation in Washington are excerpts from a planned book by former White House spokesman Larry Speakes that suggest Mrs. Reagan dislikes Mrs. Gorbachev.

Several other news reports have quoted unnamed White House officials as saying Mrs. Reagan is angry at Mrs. Gorbachev for not replying to her invitation to tour the White House until a cabled ultimatum was sent demanding a reply.

Soviet officials said an itinerary for Mrs. Gorbachev may be issued later.

"I don't know her very well," Mrs. Reagan said on Monday, ducking questions about her relations with Mrs. Gorbachev. "She's very nice," the 66-year-old U.S. first lady added.

South African rampage claims 6 more lives

JOHANNESBURG (R)—Six people were stabbed to death near the city of Pietermaritzburg in one of the worst outbreaks of violence in South Africa this year, police reported on Tuesday.

The victims, all blacks, included a 67-year-old man who was stabbed 129 times, they said. Police said the killers were a group of blacks who had gone on a rampage.

Black townships around Pietermaritzburg, capital of the Indian Ocean province of Natal, have been engulfed by factional fighting and some have become virtual "no go" areas closed to non-residents.

More than 150 people have been killed in Natal townships this year. The fighting, between supporters of the Zulu Inkatha Movement and the more radical United Democratic Front (UDF), has escalated recently despite mediation attempts.

Explosion wrecks parked car at Manila airport

MANILA (R)—An explosion wrecked a parked car at Manila International Airport on Tuesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties, airport officials said.

They said it was not immediately known what caused the blast which set the car on fire near a gate to the airport's departure area.

Radio reports said three cars were destroyed in the blast which shop-owners and residents near the airport described as "loud and powerful like an earthquake."

Airport officials said four people, including a security guard, were slightly injured in the blast, which brought people in houses and restaurants nearby rushing

The latest killings came after a large group of blacks travelled by bus into the townships of Deda, the police Bulletin said.

"They split up into smaller groups and then attacked residents and property."

"After the rampage it was found that six black men had been killed, many others injured and several properties damaged."

"The six men killed were aged between 40 and 67 years and all had been stabbed repeatedly."

The 67-year-old man had been stabbed some 129 times," the Bulletin said.

Police said they drove off the attackers with birdshot and tear gas and made 21 arrests.

The Bulletin reported a spate of other incidents around Pietermaritzburg, a once sleepy rural city which has become South Africa's most violent trouble-spot and the frontline of the Inkatha-UDF conflict.

U.S., Soviet academicians to hold 'science summit'

WASHINGTON (AP)—While their nations' political leaders meet, nine of the Soviet Union's top academicians are exchanging views with leading U.S. researchers, including at least three Nobel laureates.

The Soviet and American scientists were holding a summit of their own Tuesday on subjects as diverse as the restructuring of the Soviet economy and the U.S. battle against AIDS.

National Academy of Sciences spokeswoman Gail Porter said members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences are familiar figures to American experts because there has been an exchange of scientists between the two countries for years.

But, she noted, "the size and calibre of this gathering is very unusual. Having all of these people in the same room at the same time is exceptional."

The Soviet delegation is led by

Yevgeny Velikhov, the vice president of the Soviet Academy and the chief science adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev. Velikhov and Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences, will open the unusual gathering with brief remarks.

After that, said Ms. Porter, there will be more than three hours of "conversation" between some of the best minds in the two countries.

"There are no ground rules for this," she said, but a programme outline has been drawn up.

Abel Aganbegyan, secretary of the Economics Department of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, will speak on the restructuring of the Soviet economy. He will be followed by two other academicians, Vladimir Kudryavtsev and Stephen Staryan, who will speak on economic reforms and "democratisation in the USSR."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Egypt's population reaches 52 million

CAIRO (R)—Egypt's population topped the 52 million mark last week, an increase of over 1.5 million since November last year, a government report said on Tuesday. This was an annual population rise of 3.1 per cent. Results issued last April of a November 1986 census put the population at about 50.5 million, with an annual increase of 2.8 per cent. Official estimates project a 67 million population by 1999. Egypt has launched a five-year plan to stem the birth rate.

Town crier announces his own death

ISTANBUL (R)—A Turkish town crier announced his suicide over the municipal public address system on Monday and then plunged five floors to his death. Ismet Seven, the 47-year-old crier of Rize port on the Black Sea, told citizens he could not live on his salary and had been refused a pay rise. Anatolian News Agency reported.

Gorbachev book becomes best-seller

MEER, Netherlands (AP)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is now a best-selling author in the Netherlands, where his book Perestroika has sold more copies than anywhere else in Western Europe, its publisher said Monday. The 300-page work outlining Gorbachev's programme of Soviet policy reforms has sold most of the 150,000 copies of its first five Dutch printings, according to Marianne Tieleman of the Spectrum Publishing Company. "It's going faster here than anywhere else," she said in an interview with the Associated Press. She said Perestroika, which means "Restructuring" in Russian, "breathes a kind of optimism." "We're a reasonably sensitive people in terms of peace movements and so on," she said, referring to the national debate and huge demonstrations in the early 1980s over deploying new NATO medium-range nuclear missiles in Holland. On Friday, Spectrum ordered a sixth printing of 10,000 copies of Mr. Gorbachev's book, and is considering a seventh of the same size, Ms. Tieleman said. The book is for sale in 17 other Western nations. "In the Netherlands, Gorbachev is raising quite a bit of dust because of his willingness to go along with scrapping the medium-range missiles," said Ludo Eijkelkamp of the Roman Catholic peace group Pax Christi.

Court blocks sale of Dreyfus manuscript

PARIS (R)—The Paris appeals court has blocked the auctioning of the famous Dreyfus manuscript of French author Emile Zola until a dispute between his heirs has been settled. The 39-page tract which caused a scandal in France when Zola published it in 1898, accused the government of fabricating a treason charge against Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew. Zola's grandson, Francois-Emile Zola, took his daughter Brigitte Place to court to prevent the sale. He argued that she did not have the right to dispose of the manuscript, which France considers a national literary treasure. The appeals court upheld a decision by a lower court on Nov. 20 to block the sale. British auction house Sotheby's, which had planned to auction the document known as the 'J'Accuse tract and other manuscripts in Monte Carlo on Tuesday, said in a statement in Monaco that it had called off the sale.

Police arrest Santa Claus protesters

WARSAW (R)—Polish police arrested demonstrators dressed as Father Christmas in the city of Wroclaw as they gave sweets to children in a protest against government austerity measures, opposition sources said. More Santa Claus protesters led a march of several thousand chanting "free St. Nicholas" to the police station where their friends were being held, the sources said. The militant Santas in long red robes and bushy white beards attracted thousands of spectators as they appeared robed together in the centre of the south western Polish town. They carried a banner saying "St. Nicholas is the reforms' only hope" — a reference to proposed government price rises of up to 200 per cent for some commodities. Police moved in to break up the protest and arrested 20 of the costumed demonstrators. All were released after spending about an hour at the police station.

Madonna seeks divorce

LOS ANGELES (R)—Rock singer Madonna has filed for divorce from Hollywood "bad boy" Sean Penn, citing irreconcilable differences as the reason to end their 28-month marriage, according to a petition filed in Los Angeles. Madonna was quoted in newspaper reports recently as saying she was angry with Penn, who recently served 32 days in jail for punching a film extra and for reckless driving, because he had disappeared for four days. "We are just not communicating anymore," Madonna said, Penn, 27, who leads the so-called Hollywood "bratpack" of hot-headed young stars, and 29-year-old Madonna were married in a lavish sunset ceremony on the shores of the Pacific in the film star colony of Malibu on Aug. 16, 1985. They started together earlier this year in the film Shanghai Surprise, which was not a box office success despite the appeal of its two stars. In her petition, filed in Los Angeles superior court late on Friday by lawyer Michael Inglis, Madonna asked for her maiden name of Madonna Ciccone to be restored and said the couple's assets and property had been disposed of in a marital agreement. The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

2 AIDS foundations kicked off

PARIS (AP)—French and American officials on Friday formally inaugurated two foundations for AIDS research and treatment to be funded under an agreement signed last spring by President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. The French and American AIDS foundation will be jointly governed by representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Pasteur Institute, France's leading AIDS research centre. Researchers in the two countries are already sharing ideas, materials and information in the fight against AIDS, said Dr. Luc Montagnier, head of Pasteur's AIDS research team. The foundation was established as part of the settlement, signed on March 30, ending a dispute over ownership of patent rights to an AIDS antibody test. Millions of dollars in royalties are expected to be generated through the sale of antibody test kits and each party will contribute 80 per cent of its share to the new foundation.

Brodsky sets condition for Soviet visit

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Exiled Soviet poet Joseph Brodsky, in Sweden to collect the Nobel Prize for Literature, said Sunday he wants to visit the Soviet Union, but only on condition his work can be published there. Speaking at a news conference, Brodsky said human rights in the Soviet Union had shown "obvious improvement" in the last few years. "But the good old country has a long way to go," he said. Brodsky left the Soviet Union in 1972. He spent 20 months of a five-year sentence in an Arctic labour camp for being "a social parasite," but was released early because of international pressure. He became a U.S. citizen in 1977. He will be awarded the Nobel Literature Prize at a festive ceremony on Thursday. Seven other laureates will share the prizes in chemistry, physics and economics. On the same day, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will receive the Nobel Peace Prize in a separate ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHICH SUIT?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 4 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ Q 7
♣ A 3 2

WEST ♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ A Q 2
♦ J 10 9 8
♣ 6 5

EAST ♠ K 5
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ 6 5 4 3
♣ Q J 4

SOUTH
♠ 10
♥ K J 9 5
♦ A K 3
♣ K 10 9 8 7

The bidding:
1♠ West 1♥ North 1♠ Pass East
1NT Pass 3♥ Pass
3NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

The obvious suit to develop first is not necessarily the right suit. This hand, constructed by Eddie Kantar, is an object lesson.

Note North's rebid. Since two spades was retrogressive he chose the jump rebid, and South had nowhere to go other than three no trump.

After the lead of the jack of diamonds, your first chore is to count your tricks. You start with six top

tricks, so you have to develop three more. Which suit are you going to tackle first?

If your answer is the club suit, you must have miscounted. At best, you can develop two extra tricks in clubs (barring Q-J bare), and that will leave you a trick short. Spades offers a much better chance.

That also tells you where to win the first trick. To develop and bring in the long spades, you need as many entries as possible to dummy. So win the first trick in hand and lead the ten of spades. Since you expect to surrender at least two tricks in the suit, you must find a 4-2 split.

If West covers, win and drive out the remaining honor. As the cards lie, he will play low. You do the same from dummy, and East's king wins. Let's presume East wins and returns a diamond. Win on the table, cash the ace of spades and continue with the jack. Regardless of what the defenders do, your contract is assured since the ace of clubs is still on the board as an entry. By tackling spades, you have increased your black-suit tricks to six. Had you played on clubs, you would have realized only five.

9 killed in Australian high-rise horror

MELBOURNE (R)—A man armed with a high-powered rifle slaughtered eight people in a high-rise office block on Tuesday before falling to his death from a 10th-storey window.

Police said a 22-year-old man stalked several floors of the building in Melbourne's financial and legal district, firing indiscriminately with military ammunition.

Nine people, including the gunman whose bloody corpse lay on the sidewalk, were confirmed dead late on Tuesday. Police were still searching the 19-storey building.

A further five people were wounded, one seriously.

"It's nine dead at this stage. We're still doing a head count," one policeman said at the scene of the city's second mass shooting in four months.

It was Australia's most brutal massacre since seven people were killed and 19 wounded by a disgruntled former army cadet in suburban Melbourne in August.

No motive has been established for the rampage, which began around 4 p.m. (1050 GMT), but police ruled out a theory that it began as an attempted hold-up at a Loan Society Office for Telecommunications Authority employees.

"This was not an armed robbery. It was a personal confrontation," state Police Assistant Commissioner Vaughan Werner told reporters.

The gunman went to the fifth floor Loan Society Office where he argued with another man known to him. The visitor then began shooting, Werner said.

"He just appeared to panic, lost his cool. As a result we have so many dead," Werner told an impromptu news conference.

Four bodies were found when police opened an elevator. Others were scattered under and around desks over several floors of the building.

Police cordoned off several city blocks and marksmen surrounded the building as police helicopters patrolled overhead but no shots were fired by police.

Less than an hour after the shooting began the gunman smashed a 10th floor window and fell from a narrow ledge as others tried to grab his falling legs.